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11 Family Matters
Fighting aggression



16 Gardener's Corner
The roots of rhubarb



22 Sports
Oilers clinch playoff series

THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN SERIALS DIVISION

INDEX

Arts & Entertainment 9
Business 17
Family Matters 11
Movies, TV, Crossword 23
Opinion 10
Sports 24

Ben-Porat: Haredim unfairly favored

By DAN IZENBERG

Two months before her scheduled retirement, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat released the 48th annual State Comptroller's Report yesterday, stressing that one of its key findings was that the haredi sector had received an unfair share of state land and funding.

"This year, in this report, favoritism toward the haredim was one of the things that stood out in particular," said Ben-Porat, in a summary of her 10th report, which ran 1,108 pages.

The significant issues involving the haredi sector included the discriminatory allocation of housing by Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush (United Torah Judaism), the inflated funding of yeshivot, the burgeoning number of haredim whose military service is deferred because they study in yeshivot, and political appointments in Porush's ministry.

Full coverage of report, Pages 12-15, 18

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, who heads the Ministerial State Control Committee, spoke to reporters immediately after Ben-Porat and said the government has already decided to comply with the state comptroller's recommendations.

Within a year, the government would deal with all the problems raised in this year's report, he said.

All the ministers have accepted the decisions of the ministerial committee except Porush, said Hanegbi. The decisions related to his ministry will be brought to the cabinet for a vote, he said.

Yesterday, Porush declared that the state comptroller's findings were part of the all-out war being waged these days against the haredi population.

See BEN-PORAT, Page 3



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu heads for his car as British Prime Minister Tony Blair (top) watches from the doorstep of 10 Downing St. after their meeting over breakfast yesterday. (AP)

Final status 'to include 3rd pullback'

US to invite PM, Arafat for talks

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON – Israeli and Palestinian officials yesterday wound up two days of inconclusive talks in London with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, with Israeli officials relieved they had averted a clash with the US.

While the London meetings did not achieve an agreement on the second redeployment in the West Bank, Albright announced that President Bill Clinton would invite the Israeli and Palestinian delegations to launch accelerated final-status talks in Washington next Monday if a redeployment agreement is achieved in the interim, "based on the American ideas."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told the Likud Central Committee last night, immediately after returning from London, that he plans to go to Washington "to achieve peace and security."

Diplomatic sources told Itim last night that in the talks with the Americans, an agreement was reached to include discussions on the third pullback in the final-status talks.

According to the sources, the only issue that remains is the extradition of terrorists to Israel. The US contends they should serve their prison sentence in Palestinian jails.

Israeli officials were satisfied they had persuaded the US to expand the scope of the negotiations and include the issues of security arrangements and the machinery to verify Palestinian compliance with previous agreements on the agenda, alongside the issue of redeployment.

PM to Likud c'tee: I'm inflexible when it comes to security, Page 2

Before leaving London, Netanyahu said: "We've made progress, even considerable progress, in several important areas, but we have not closed all the gaps."

Reiterating his continuing concerns about security and reciprocity, he said he was "still hopeful that the peace process will move forward.... We have the determination to work vigorously toward a solution."

Speaking after meeting British Prime Minister Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat said Albright had reported progress and he said he was determined to continue with the peace process, "despite obstacles and difficulties caused by the Israeli government."

He would not characterize the London talks as a failure.

"Time is needed to achieve an agreement," he said.

In her closing remarks, Albright described the London talks as "serious and constructive." There had been progress "across the board," but "some critical aspects need to be discussed," she said.

She noted that this is "a strategic opportunity to put the peace process back on track and we cannot afford to lose it."

During the two days of talks, she had "good meetings" with Netanyahu for a total of some six hours and said he had been "very helpful and constructive across a whole range of issues. He is going back to Israel to talk to his cabinet."

See TALKS, Page 3

Milo woos Meridor

By SARAH HONIG

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo has made a date to meet with MK Dan Meridor (Likud) in a few days and offer him partnership in the new political venture he launched Monday. Meridor already has said, however, that he will not team up with Milo.

Meridor was one of many politicians on the Left and Right who yesterday denied having any intention of joining Milo, after the mayor announced he will not be seeking another term, but will be running for prime minister.

Hunt for TA mayoral candidates is on, Page 2

Nearly everyone mentioned by gossipers and rumormongers strove hard to deny any association with Milo.

Meridor made it clear to reporters he was not consulted by Milo ahead of time about the move and that he will not become associated with it in the future. The consensus in most Likud quarters is that Meridor is making his own political plans to bolt the Likud. He reportedly attempted to raise funds abroad for that purpose.

The Post has learned that Milo is ready to offer Meridor a deal whereby they would both agree to allow popularity polls to decide which one of them has greater public backing. The winner would head the new centrist list, whose establishment Milo announced yesterday.

Meridor was described as "ice cold" to the idea.

Meridor and Milo saw each other yesterday at a dinner given by Chamber of Commerce president Danny Gillerman. Former prime minister Shimon Peres was there as well. Peres was one of those who yesterday rushed to deny speculation that he is a prime candidate for joining Milo.

"This is more ridiculous than ridiculous and I consider what Milo did a great mistake which could strengthen the Right and endanger the peace process even further," he said.

MK Yossi Beilin also denied any connection to Milo, saying "this is crazy. Reporters can just throw any name they wish and make a headline out of it. Labor is my home and I am happy there despite occasional scrapes."

Histadrut chairman MK Amir Peretz (Labor) also denied Milo connection rumors, as did his predecessor at the Histadrut, MK Haim Ramon (Labor).

On the Likud side there were also many denials, beginning with Communications Minister Limor Livnat who argued that "Milo's list is not centrist but leftist. My views are radically different from his and there is no reason I would want to join him. I am in the Likud and I am fully behind Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu."

Former foreign minister David Levy of Gesher termed talk that he might become Milo's No. 2 "the product of a feverish mind."

There was one MK who all but begged Milo to take him under his wing. It was MK Avraham Poraz, who heads the Shinui splinter which refuses to merge into Meretz. He has been looking for political allies and he cheered Milo's move. He even suggested that "we might cooperate in the future."

11 wounded in Givatayim shooting spree

Eleven people were wounded last night, one seriously, when a man shot into a Givatayim cafe with an automatic weapon.

Two men road up to Cafe Givatayim on a motorcycle at around 8:30 last night, and one of them shot into the cafe.

The attack may have been an attempt to murder Roni Harari, a leader of the Ramat Amidar gang. Harari was lightly wounded in the attack, and was released from Ichilov Hospital last night.

"This is a serious incident and one of the things we are investigating is whether it is connected to the gang warfare between Pardess Katz and Ramat Amidar," Dan Region police chief Lt.-Cmdr. David Kraoza said last night.

Six people have been killed in clashes between the Ramat Amidar and Pardess Katz gangs over the past three years.

Rabbi Shimon Hadif, a 40-year-old father of 11 whose brother Itzik heads the Pardess Katz gang, was the most recent victim. He was murdered in January by a bomb planted in his car.

Police found the motorcycle and the weapon near Ramat Gan. They said there were a number of suspects and action was expected to be taken against them last night. (Itim)

Betar's Dadash quits

By ORI LEWIS

Betar Jerusalem soccer club chairman Moshe Dadash announced his resignation last night, just five days ahead of his club's last match of the season – which could see it win the National League championship for a second season in a row.

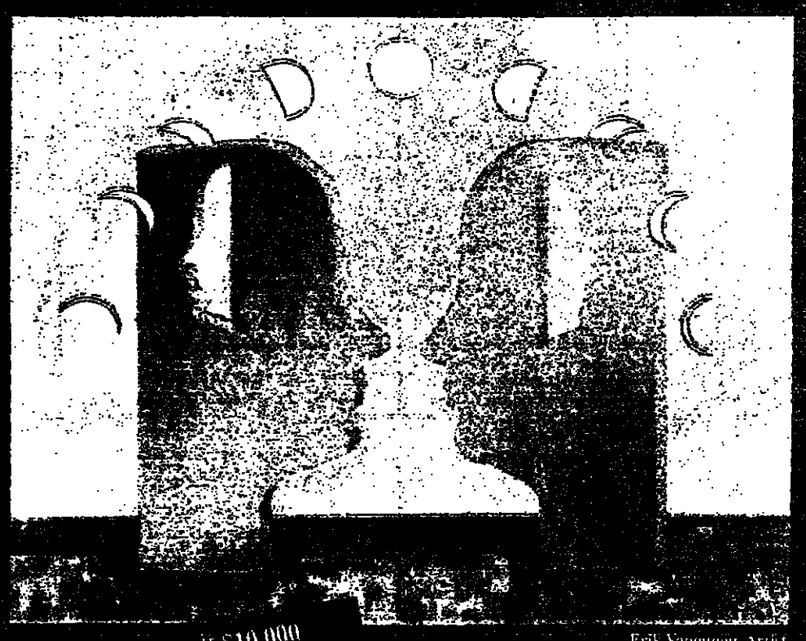
In his letter of resignation, addressed to Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, Dadash said Hapoel Tel Aviv supporters had made telephone threats on his and his family's lives.

Dadash outlined the "incitement campaign" against the club and against him personally.

"Since Saturday night, after Betar Jerusalem's win over Beit She'an, there has been an unprecedented campaign to vilify the club. From the moment the winning [injury time] goal was scored, there has been an organized campaign by politicians from the Labor Party and Meretz which has cast a shadow over the integrity of the result. They have tried to insinuate that the Beit She'an players deliberately tried to lose the game and to smear the reputation of Betar's supporters throughout the country."

See DADASH, Page 24

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NEWS
in brief

Beacon-lighter suspected of molesting teen

Zemah Smadar, 70, of Ramle, who lit a beacon at the Independence Day opening ceremony on Mt. Herzl last week, was arrested this week on suspicion he molested a 16-year-old when the two of them were in an elevator.

He was released under restrictive conditions: He cannot come to Ramle except to work and cannot enter the town at night. He must spend the nights with a relative in Rishon Lezion.

Smadar, a native of Tunisia, was on the *Exodus* and was deported by the British to a detention camp in Germany. From there he went to France and then immigrated here.

He had nominated himself to light a beacon at the ceremony, and the committee that chose the 12 beacon-lighters approved his nomination. *Itim*

Group says Arafat denies Abu Dis as capital

The head of a delegation to Israel sponsored by the influential New York based Council on Foreign Relations denied a *Ha'aretz* report yesterday that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat suggested in a meeting with them that he would "accept Abu Dis" as the capital of a Palestinian state.

Henry Siegman, a senior fellow on the Middle East who is leading the group, said this was "an incorrect interpretation of what President Arafat said to us."

According to Siegman, Arafat said "there are several plans for the resolution of the problem of Jerusalem that can serve as an acceptable basis for discussion. He singled out specifically the so-called Abu-Mazen-Yossi Beilin plan as one such promising proposal and indicated that the idea that Abu Dis serve as a Palestinian capital is one of several worth of consideration." *By Jay Bushinsky*

Court issues injunction on Arutz 7

Justice Ya'acov Tirkel, sitting as the High Court of Justice, issued an injunction yesterday, asking the Communications Ministry, the Defense Ministry and the attorney-general to explain within 60 days why they cannot refrain from closing down Arutz 7, the right-wing radio station.

The injunction, issued in response to a petition by the station, asks the three to explain why they should not refrain from restricting the right of free speech and other rights.

The petition also demanded the return of equipment confiscated under the previous government. Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, in a recent legal opinion, said it is necessary to settle the status of Arutz 7, because it is operating illegally. He suggested turning it into a regional station for Judea and Samaria. *Itim*

Palestinian group: IDF harasses press

A Palestinian human rights group says Israeli forces are preventing Arab journalists in Hebron from doing their jobs. In its monthly publication, the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group detailed incidents ranging from seizing cameras to the shooting by soldiers of eight journalists on March 13.

An IDF spokeswoman yesterday referred to a military investigation of the shootings that determined soldiers could not distinguish between the journalists and stonethrowers since the area was dimly lit. Soldiers are under strict orders not to attack journalists, the investigation said. *Steve Rodan.*

Panel: CGS decision taking too long

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, chaired by MK Uzi Landau (Likud), sent a letter of protest yesterday to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai urging the immediate conclusion of the appointment process for the new chief of general staff and blasting Mordechai for ignoring requests he talk to Landau about it.

Committee members said the appointment procedure had gone on too long and any longer would only cause further harm.

Mordechai and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu are expected to make a decision on the new the chief of general staff today, Israel Radio reported last night.

Outgoing Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak told the committee that the current appointment procedure negatively affects the IDF and general staff.

"It is a strange procedure, which in the eyes of the youth observing it is incomprehensible, to say the least," Shahak reportedly said during the committee meeting.

Landau said he is looking into the possibility of legislative changes regarding the appointment procedure of the chief of general staff.

However, several MKs rejected this possibility. MK Dan Meridor said there is no need to change legislation involving a Basic Law over one case. MKs Benny (Ze'ev) Begin (Likud), Haggai Merom (Labor) and Ran Cohen (Meretz) said it would increase politicization of the IDF and lead to a flood of requests from generals and brigadier generals to be considered for the post.

Merom joked it could lead to "primary elections in the IDF."

Landau said the appointment should be made immediately "in a pertinent and proper procedure based on reasonable considerations."

Mordechai told the Knesset on Monday that "a chief of general staff will be appointed who is suitable for the IDF. Too much is being said which in my opinion is not worthy of comment. The decisions will be pertinent, according to needs, and by the authorized bodies. There is a defense minister. There is a prime minister. There is a government and just as they are authorized to take difficult decisions in many fields, they will also decide in a closed forum on the appointment of the chief of general staff." At the outset of yesterday's meeting, MKs Yossi Sarid (Meretz) and Ori Orr (Labor) both criticized the interview published in *Yediot Aharonot* with Brig.-Gen. Yaacov Amidror, head of the military intelligence research division, in which he was quoted making harsh statements about the secular public.

Sarid said that if, as reports suggest, Amidror is being considered as a possible head of military intelligence, the interview "made it problematic and perhaps impossible. It is doubtful a person with so many preconceptions and stereotypes is worthy or capable of being head of military intelligence."

Orr said the interview had caused both Amidror and the IDF harm.

Shahak did not relate to the contents of the interview but said Amidror had received the relevant permits before giving it.

Panel approves CGS candidates

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The Civil Service Commission Panel examining the two candidates for IDF chief of general staff have thrown the decision back into the hands of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

The committee notified them that both Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz and Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i are worthy of replacing Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak.

"The decision of which of the two candidates to chose as chief of general staff is entirely in the hands of the government, according to the recommendation of the minister of defense," the panel wrote in a letter to Netanyahu.

Netanyahu and Mordechai sent the matter before the panel, which was to make sure that no one was being appointed for personal, business or political reasons. The committee noted it was not requested to discuss the talents nor the professionalism of the candidates

Mordechai, whose is coming under increasing pressure over his choice for the next chief of general staff, has repeated that no lobby can influence his decision. "I think that some of the pressure that has been initiated by various people is needless and shouldn't be. I am certain this is not what will influence my choice of the next chief of general staff," Mordechai said.

Mordechai, who reportedly has chosen Mofaz, also said he would clarify the reasons for his choice after he is approved.

Mordechai also said his steps were coordinated with Netanyahu, who reportedly backs Vilna'i, and that he would meet with the prime minister after he returned from London and they would bring a joint recommendation to the government for approval.

Mordechai had wanted to bring his recommendation to the cabinet on Sunday, but for reasons not yet clear Netanyahu asked to meet a second time with both candidates and delay the decision until he returned from London.



Students hold up a birthday cake for missing IAF navigator Ron Arad yesterday. Behind them are signs in Hebrew and Farsi calling for his release. (Reuters)

Arad family faults gov't efforts to find him

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

The family of missing navigator Ron Arad yesterday expressed anger and disappointment at the government's failure to bring Arad back or even to ascertain whether he is dead or alive.

"Everyone asks: Is Ron dead? Is he alive? I don't know the answer, and it's hard. It's hard because everything we were brought up on was based on not leaving a soldier out there," Arad's brother, Hen Arad, said yesterday at the rally marking Arad's 40th birthday in Tel Aviv's Ironi Alef high school.

"It's hard because you see the helplessness of the state you believe is omnipotent," he added.

The rally was attended by Arad's mother Batya Arad and his brothers Hen and Dudu. Deputy Prime Minister and Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav replaced Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who had been scheduled to attend but was in London.

Arad was shot down in Lebanon 12 years ago and, as long as he is missing, his family feels the government is not doing enough to bring him back.

"The fact is, Ron isn't here. So we're angry. Does that make any difference to Ron? He's not here and his status is not clear," Hen Arad said.

He told the hundreds of school pupils "there are guys here who tomorrow will go to the army and I hope the next time a senior commander lectures pupils he won't say 'it will be alright' but 'make it alright.' I hope there'll be some activity more real than declarations."

Yoske Harari, chairman of the Association to Free Ron Arad, blamed the government and intelligence services for Arad's continued absence. Harari said he was certain "Ron is alive, and that's why it hurts me much more. Apparently not all of us are doing what we should be doing."

Harari said in the past two years the association appealed directly to world public opinion instead of the government. He said the missing navigator's birthday was marked yesterday in 800 different places worldwide.

At the end of the rally scores of blue and white balloons were floated upwards. An air force formation consisting of three instead of four Phantoms – to mark Arad's missing plane which was shot down in Lebanon on October 16, 1986 – passed above.

Labor, Likud hunt for mayoral candidates

By SARAH HONIG

Both large parties yesterday set out to find candidates for the Tel Aviv mayoral race following Mayor Ronni Milo's announcement that he will not seek reelection.

The Labor Party decided last night to opt for open primaries with party chairman Ehud Barak indicating that he will – if left with no other viable choice – throw his political weight behind Gymnasia Herzliya principal Ron Huldai.

In the Likud there is talk that Maj.-Gen. (res) Doron Rubin will win the nomination, but the names of two other major-generals – Yossi Peled and Avihu Bin-Nun – also were mentioned.

Neither party has much time left because if a candidate who is not a Tel Aviv resident is picked he must establish legal residence in the city by Sunday to qualify. Labor has been searching for a candidate ever since it disbanded its partnership with Milo last week.

Labor MK Ephraim Sneh, a Herzliya resident, yesterday turned down Barak's offer to run in Tel Aviv.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid spent the better part of yesterday trying to talk Barak into fielding Meretz MK Amnon Rubinstein, a Tel Aviv native who still lives in the city. But Barak and Labor were distinctly unenthusiastic, despite Rubinstein's apparent willingness to head a joint Labor-Meretz ticket in the city.

That left Labor effectively without any big name vote-getter and the party's municipal committee announced that it will be opting for open primaries in which all Tel Aviv residents will be entitled to vote.

This significantly boosts Huldai's chances. He announced that he would be running independently several months ago, after Labor rejected his candidacy. The party's elections campaign headquarters chief, MK Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, continues to hotly oppose Huldai, as does the Tel Aviv Labor branch.

But Barak told those close to him yesterday that if left with no other viable choice he will endorse Huldai. Barak met with Huldai yesterday at the Knesset.

In the Likud, the option of fielding former Democratic Movement for Change MK Shlomo Eliyahu still remained alive yesterday, but the party was looking for a more charismatic figure. Former MK Ovadia Eli, who heads the Likud's municipal campaign committee, met with Rubin and the party was rife with rumors that Rubin will be the Likud's candidate in Tel Aviv.

Can Netanyahu risk a meeting with Albright?

ANALYSIS

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu took a serious risk when he agreed to attend this week's London meetings and will be taking an even bigger one if he accepts Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's invitation to meet her again in Washington next week.

Normally, diplomatic events of such magnitude are initiated only when all the loose ends have been tied together by subordinate officials and the way is clear for high-profile, media-hyped agreements.

But that did not happen in advance of Netanyahu's talks in the British capital and he is the last person to have been surprised by the consequences.

The prime minister found himself in the throes of a no-holds-barred negotiation with Albright herself and had to leave her empty-handed. He could not go beyond his cabinet's decision to withdraw from no more than nine percent of the West Bank still under Israel's control.

Albright, meanwhile, implied that there is no point in Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat having their next meeting in Washington unless both were prepared to adopt the American proposal for a West Bank redeployment. This is generally understood mean redeployment from 13.1% of the territory under discussion.

The invitation to Washington "is a conditional invitation on the basis of agreement, on the basis of our ideas."

She noted that Arafat has "accepted our ideas in principle," and left Netanyahu little, if any, room to maneuver.

"Watering them down is not in the works," she said. The US would "reexamine our approach to the Middle East peace process" if Israel does not follow the American lead.

Netanyahu had planned to fly to be in the US soon anyway and would have welcomed a date in Washington with the secretary of state. But to be readmitted to the State Department he will probably have to offer much more than his coalition can tolerate.

Now, Netanyahu must decide whether it is worth trying to talk his ministerial colleagues into reconsidering their position, if only to avoid an across-the-board confrontation with the Clinton administration.

The alternative is to interpret Albright's rhetoric as being much less apocalyptical than it may seem.

Netanyahu may opt for a Washington round in the belief that the powerful support Israel enjoys in the US Congress, the Jewish community and influential elements of the mass media will reduce the State Department's ability to pressure him.

Ironically, a seasoned Palestinian observer judged that Netanyahu "won a victory" in London by successfully holding to his concept of "his country's security requirements."

Arafat was depicted as the "loser" because he emerged from the discussions without anything tangible, other than that the PA and US see eye to eye on the territorial issue.

But that can be construed as no mean accomplishment, at least in Western eyes.

PM: I'm inflexible when it comes to security

By SARAH HONIG

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu proudly declared yesterday that negotiations with him "are difficult. Yes, I am not flexible when it comes to Israel's security. Rumors to that effect are 100% true."

Addressing a meeting of the Likud Central Committee immediately after returning from London, Netanyahu reported that "progress had been made in both the spheres of peace and security" in his talks in the British capital.

"We did not only deal with percentages and the second phase of redeployment but with a broad tapestry of issues," he said.

After being greeted with tumultuous applause and several renditions of the Likud elections jingle, Netanyahu elicited even more cheers when he told them that he is ready to "be flexible where possible and to be obstinate where necessary. I am willing to hear new ideas and I introduced some new ones myself. I try to convince and am ready to listen.

"But I will not be flexible when Israel's security is at stake. Here I must stand my ground. We came to power when we spoke of peace through security and no one will sidetrack us from these criteria."

Sounding upbeat, he asserted that "despite the difficulties we will achieve peace – no one but us can attain real peace." Speaking about the recent internal strife, Netanyahu said he plans "to bring proposals to the government on a dialogue between the secular sector and the religious and haredi sectors.

"Peace begins at home. Only a nation at peace inside its own home can make peace with those around it. A nation divided and split and engaged in culture clashes invites pressures and attacks from enemies outside. Is this what we need? culture wars?" he thundered, and the committee members shouted: "No!"

He predicted that "anyone who wants to make a career out of fomenting discord and launching culture wars will fail. This nation does not want to open wounds but heal them. We want culture and tradition. We want to extend hands to each other."

Peres says IDF must develop electronic warfare systems

By STEVE RODAN

Former prime minister Shimon Peres called yesterday on the IDF to develop electronic and information warfare systems that can cripple Arab military communications, radar and missile networks.

"For the army of the future, I would build on the advantage of electronic warfare," Peres, the architect of the nation's defense industries, told a symposium on military research held in Jerusalem. "I would tell the IDF to analyze all the electronic radar systems in the region and see how to neutralize them."

Peres said such a project would both capitalize on Israel's superiority in defense electronics, as well as ensure the development of the industry. He said such an effort should take place even if peace efforts eventually succeed.

"I don't suggest that we make peace on the backs of a weakening military," he said. "I want to make peace while strengthening the army to ensure the peace."

Peres, who in the 1950s helped establish Israel Aircraft Industries, pointed out that the US already has developed such a program to paralyze an enemy through electronic warfare.

Such an offensive could also affect the civilian life of a country. This could involve a series of computer attacks against the information infrastructure of an enemy in the region.

The result could be the halt to banking and financial transactions, disrupting traffic signals in major cities, and the altering of flight paths for airplanes.

The Pentagon is considering Joint Vision 2010, a planning document that calls for information dominance by ensuring the American capability to collect, process and disseminate information while denying the enemy's ability to do the same.

The Pentagon is also exploring a project called Starlite to place 24 or more radar satellites in low-earth orbit to provide constant global surveillance of trouble stops and find-and-attack mobile missiles.

"The US is studying what it calls 'the system of systems' of shutting down electronic and computer systems of other militaries," Peres said.

He said an Israeli electronic warfare project would also serve as a deterrent to the Arab states and their drive for obtaining advanced Western systems.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Mr. Maurice Cohen will speak on "Our Man Still in Damascus".

With deep sorrow, after 65 wonderful years together,
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(For details of the funeral, please call 02-642-0683)

Argentina: Iran attache linked to bombing

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) – An Argentine public prosecutor said on Monday that Iran's former cultural attache to Buenos Aires had been linked to the 1994 anti-semitic bombing that killed 86 people.

"We were always suspicious of the Iranian cultural attache," Prosecutor Eamon Mullen told local radio.

Mullen was speaking after Juan Galeano, the Argentine judge investigating the bombing, interrogated an unidentified witness in Germany about the case. Mullen accompanied Galeano to Germany.

In March, Argentina's government blocked the return to Buenos Aires of the Iranian embassy's cultural attache, Mohsen Rabbani, because of suspicions surrounding the AMIA Jewish community center bombing.

Investigators probing the bombing blame Iranian-backed Moslem extremists for the attack. Those suspicions are shared by Israel and US intelligence.

So far, four former Argentine policemen have been charged with helping to plan the attack.

Mullen said the witness in Germany told him and Galeano that Rabbani was responsible for "intelligence groundwork" in the bombing.

Galeano has said Rabbani sought details of prices of vehicles identical to the van used in the bombing. Immediately after the bombing, Galeano ordered the arrest of four Iranian diplomats, but the international arrest warrants were turned down.

Argentina and Iran both recalled their ambassadors and diplomatic links have since stayed at business attache level.

Galeano traveled to the United States late last year to question Manouchehr Motamer, an Iranian agent turned informer who provided the first evidence of an alleged Iranian lead.

Buenos Aires was the site of another antisemitic bomb attack in 1992, when a car-bomb destroyed the Israeli Embassy and killed 29 people. No one is being held for that crime.

'Jubilee Bells' dispute arouses storm in Education Committee

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The Batsheva Dance Company's artistic director, Ohad Naharin, walked out of yesterday's stormy Knesset Education Committee meeting on events surrounding his troupe's refusal to perform in the *Jubilee Bells* show last week.

An angry committee chairman, Emanuel Zissmann (Third Way), tried hard to keep the discussion civil, but the turmoil the incident has already created carried into the meeting. When given a chance to speak, Naharin rejected the offer, and said: "I simply think this discussion can't possibly be substantive. It's a political discussion, and the only thing that can come of it is either a cover-up or humiliation."

"You're making a mockery of the Knesset," shouted MK Yona Yahav, at which point Yahav's Labor colleagues on the committee shouted at him for cooperating with those trying to hurt the dance company.

An unfazed Yahav called Naharin "impudent."

The issue of artistic freedom is one that is tearing apart Israeli society, and we must do all that is possible to make sure no *Kulturkampf* erupts, Zissmann said.

"We always protect freedom of expression in the arts, as we did when we supported the continuation of Gil Kopatch's sketch on Israel Television, the continued showing of the Cameri Quintet's programs, the continuation of art exhibitions at museums, etc.," Zissmann said.

"I supported the compromise that was reached by the president and I will not allow [Batsheva's] budget to be cut as a result of its not performing, or the budget of any other cultural institution," Zissmann said.

Arye Shumer, director-general of the President's Residence, explained that "the president was asked to arbitrate between the sides on Thursday [Independence Day] at 12:30 p.m. He met with [Jubilee Association director] Doron Shmueli and then with Batsheva's directors and proposed that under the clothes the dancers take off they wear short-sleeved shirts and shorts.

"The compromise was difficult for all concerned, but it was accepted, and we understood that the performance would go on as planned."

Batsheva Dance Company board of directors chairman Roni Kleinman said, however, that "the dancers decided that they were opposed to the compromise, and decided not to appear. The board, at its meeting on Friday, the day afterwards, decided to back the company members' stand."

Meanwhile, in light of the Batsheva incident, Education Ministry Director-General Benzion Dell called on homeroom teachers to hold discussions with their pupils on tolerance and understanding in a pluralistic and democratic society.

Dell said the dispute provides an opportunity for a classroom discussion about encouraging dialogue among different sectors in the population, and for each side to understand the other's sensibilities.

He said that teachers should stress to the pupils that not every principle, even if it is very important to each side in the argument should lead to a rift among people.

"Israeli society is full of tension, but the greatest and widest schism is between observant and non-observant Israelis," Dell said. "The educational system's job is to calm down the situation, seek what we have in common and not what divides us, and to educate the pupils to see things in a wider, pluralistic and thoughtful context.

Haim Shapiro adds:

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau this week referred to the controversy over the Batsheva Dance Company by saying that stripping acts were contrary to Judaism.

"In a period which there are those who want to strip us of the bounds of morality, the mitzva of the *mikve* [ritual bath] teaches us to clothe ourselves in glory," Lau said, at the opening of a *mikve* in Pardess Hanna.

MKs seek to create forum against coercion

By LIAT COLLINS

Representatives of five factions met in the Knesset yesterday to discuss establishing a forum against religious coercion.

MKs from Meretz, Hadash, Tsomet and Yisrael Ba'aliya attended. But those from the Third Way, Likud, and Gesher refused to participate.

"I see this meeting as a success despite the modest turnout," said Labor whip Elie Goldschmidt, who organized it.

"I see it as a ray of hope that it will be possible to create in the Knesset a means of dialogue and a forum comprising both coalition and opposition members in which the common factor is the desire to protect the secular citizen," Goldschmidt said.

Alex Lubotzky (Third Way) explained his refusal to attend by saying: "The Third Way has proven over the Conversion Bill that it is possible to reach agreement and understanding by dialogue. It is loathsome in my opinion to try to build up political force based on hatred for any group in the population."

A bill by Naomi Chazan (Meretz) calling for the separation of state and religion is scheduled to come up for preliminary reading today. As a Basic Law, it would require the support of at least 61 MKs to pass.

This it is highly unlikely to do, particularly since Labor has also decided to oppose it.

RUSSIAN PRESS REVIEW

By YOSEF BEGUN

Shelter for outcasts?

Alexander Maistrovoy in *Novosti Nedeli* called the Law of Return "a sacred cow of Israeli society." Both the Left and the Right refrain from discussing any changes, regarding this issue as politically incorrect, he said. Although there are no open discussions, there are calls in favor of changing the law, not only from the haredim but also from a considerable number of Soviet Jews who encounter the same type of anti-semites they faced in the USSR.

These antisemites are ethnic Russians, Ukrainians, and others who are held in accordance with the Law of Return.

Maistrovoy said that most half-Jews – including those whose mothers are not Jewish – are quite loyal to Israel and try to get closer to the Jewish people, perhaps to be converted.

The real problem, he stressed, is that the Law of Return allows the outcasts, who have little connection to Judaism (maybe a Jewish great grandfather they never met), to make aliya and to deride local Jews, like they did in Russia.

Talk with Lieberman

Sofia Ron, of *Vesti*, interviewed Avigdor Lieberman, the former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, in the fashionable premises of his newly established Jerusalem-based company, Path to the East.

"I cannot swear that I will or will not run for Knesset," said Lieberman. "Maybe I will consider becoming a minister, but this job can be more interesting and effective than an MK's.

"The challenge is to develop a financial basis, then we can talk about the Knesset. In many ways, policy in Israel is similar to that of the US. To succeed, you must have an economic basis or sponsors. With my temperament, I cannot look for sponsors. It is not in my nature to depend on someone; that's why I started my own business," he explained.

Lieberman's company specializes in trading in commodities, such as oil, cotton and wheat, mainly from Russia, to Europe and the US. "We act as the middle man. So far we have been doing quite well," he said.

In response to a question regarding the role his ethnicity played in his political career, Lieberman said he was against using any ethnic roots in political activity.

"Every person should be judged solely by his skills and abilities. The Likud could profit from the ethnic (Russian, for example) agenda, but such popularity can do well only in the short term," he said.

Lieberman commended Yisrael Ba'aliya leader Natan Sharansky for giving more attention to the problems of security and foreign policy than to developing Russian culture in Israel.

7 candidates

Israel Ba'aliya will hold its Central Committee conference in mid-May.

The agenda, reports Alex Prilutzky in *Vesti*, will be extensive.

The candidates for the position of CC chairman are Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein (the incumbent), MK Michael Nudelman, as well as prominent party members Mark Davidor, Boris Devyatov, Michael Zack, Alex Taenzer, and Leonid Tzyvyan.

Lerner to appeal

The lawyers of Russian-born businessman Gregory Lerner (Zvi Ben-Ari) will appeal to the Supreme Court against the six-year sentence he received, says Alex Prilutzky in *Vesti*.

Lerner's wife, Lina, told reporters that beyond the hope of lessening the sentence, the moral aspect has been taken into account. "This measure," she said, "is aimed at giving some compensation to all those who have supported Gregory all along and who want him to continue fighting."



Investing in the future

OC Manpower Maj.-Gen. Gideon Sheffer congratulates Bar-Ilan University chemistry student Eli Lankry, one of 26 honor students who have been allowed to defer their combat military service for the duration of their college studies. Lankry and the other chemistry, physics and life science students each received a scholarship entitling them to a year's tuition. The army has agreed to the program due to the military's lack of soldiers trained in these fields. (Text: Arieh O'Sullivan; Photo: Yoni Reiff)

Female soldiers in combat units soon

By LIAT COLLINS

Female soldiers should be able to join combat anti-aircraft units within a few months, according to OC Women's Corps Brig-Gen. Orit Adatto. The issue came up during a meeting of the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women on the service of women beyond enemy lines.

"We have learned there is a need ... to enable women to integrate in units which are likely to be required to cross enemy lines and in this way provide the necessary step to prevent harm to women officers' promotion in the wide range of jobs," Adatto said.

She noted the IDF had taken a decision to enable women to serve in Lebanon.

OC Manpower Maj.-Gen. Gideon Sheffer said: "If the State decides women can serve beyond enemy lines, the IDF won't prevent them, but it is not necessary from the point-of-view of the IDF's needs."

Lt.-Col. Hanni Caspi noted that one of the problems today is that women combat soldiers have to volunteer for service and technically as volunteers they can pull out of reserve duty up to the day before it starts.

At a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the deputy head of the IDF planning and logistics division. Brig.-Gen. Aharon Farkush, said that as part of a program aimed at increasing efficiency, the IDF would send outstanding officers from the rank of lieutenant up to university to earn a BA in a program that includes management courses. The idea is to develop a new cadre of officers and stop promising officers from dropping out at the end of their compulsory military service at an age when their colleagues are beginning university studies.

Peled: Bridge disaster probe was objective

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled yesterday said that the Dotan Commission, which investigated the Maccabiah bridge disaster, "was absolutely objective and totally unbiased."

Peled was reacting to a claim made by Dotan Commission member Itamar Levitin who told an Australian news and analysis show that the commission was "manipulated" and that the man who appointed it "was in complete control of it."

Peled, who appointed the commission was addressing the Maccabi World Union's 23rd Congress, which is meeting this week in Ramat Gan.

He said he had not received one report during the eight days the commission met. Moreover, he added, he did not ask for one, to ensure that its work be objective and not manipulated by any outside person or body, according to a release issued yesterday by the MWU.

Levitin told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's television program *Four Corners*, in a special report broadcast Monday night, that a Maccabi World Union official on the committee tried to protect the MWU during the commission's meetings, and regularly reported back to MWU about its deliberations.

"The State of Israel is doing everything to ensure that the court proceedings will be concluded as soon as possible in order not to prolong the families' suffering. We are very sensitive to the loss these families have suffered and to our commitment as a state," Peled said.

"We will remember and commemorate the fallen on the banks of the Yarkon River – Yetty Bennett, Elizabeth Sawicki, Warren Zines and Greg Small. It is our moral duty and we will see that they always remain in our memories," he added.

Meanwhile, the MWU announced that MWU President Ronald Bakalarz and Chairman Uzi Netanel were both re-elected for another term by Congress delegates meeting this week in Ramat Gan.

BEN-PORAT

Continued from Page 1

Ben-Porat said that in her final report she had stressed social justice, including a proper allocation of the state's resources. On this score, the haredim were among the worst offenders.

"With regard to the purchase and renting of homes, we found that one sector – the haredi sector – received benefits out of all proportion, sometimes contrary to the government guidelines and the coalition agreement between Likud-Gesher-Tsomet and United Torah Judaism," she said. "The agreement said that housing should go for young couples, new immigrants, the poor, and large families. In effect, it went to one sector only – the haredi sector."

She also criticized the money allocated to yeshivot, saying the funding was based on falsified data.

"The investigation revealed that for years the increase in the number of students for whom the Religious Affairs Ministry allocates money is much higher than the growth rate among students in institutes of higher education," she said. "In other words, the ministry is allocating money to an imaginary number of students. This is very grave."

Ben-Porat also provided examples of unequal funding that did not involve haredim. The government, for example, "gave just NIS 70 per student to some local authorities and more than NIS 3,600 to others.



Miriam Ben-Porat (Brian Hendler)

"It is incomprehensible how the government can do such a thing, especially to the weak," she said. "Of the 50 local authorities which received the smallest amount of money, 41 were either Moslem or Druse. Is this the way we want to win their hearts? Is this the way we want to become one people?"

Ben-Porat began the press conference by telling reporters she had spoken out in most of her annual reports against political appointments but that she was compelled to do so again in this one.

"We have not uprooted this practice," she said. "It is difficult to uproot social phenomena like this. Nevertheless, I think that without the scrutiny of the state comptroller, the situation would be much, much worse."

The State Comptroller's Office has prepared briefs on two cases uncovered during her investigations that may be handed over to the State Attorney's Office for investigation, said Ben-Porat. Ultimately, she expects to submit other cases to the state attorney, she said.

With regard to the long-awaited report on the 1992 military training accident known as Tze'elim-2, Ben-Porat said she could not promise the report would be issued before her retirement in July, because there were still disagreements among officials in her office.

If her mandate is extended by three months, the report would definitely be published under her name, she said.

Ben-Porat added that she has been devoting two days of her six-day work week to the Tze'elim-2 report.

MK Moshe Gafni (UTJ), a member of the Knesset State Control Committee, defended the disproportionate allocations to the haredi sector in housing and education.

"The housing shortage in the haredi sector is indescribable," he told the committee in Ben-Porat's presence. Maybe certain things were done that were improper but in general, the haredi sector suffers a great deal."

TALKS

Continued from Page 1

Albright said that if the deadlock continued, the US would not "walk away from the peace process, but we will need to reexamine the way we go about it."

Albright repeatedly described her role as that of a "mediator," rather than "facilitator," as in the past, implying a more aggressive and intrusive role in the negotiations.

She said it was "obviously up to the Israelis to decide what their security requirements are," but she insisted that "as a mediator we have come up with ideas which are fair and balanced and do not threaten Israel's security."

Netanyahu left three aides in London – negotiator Yitzhak Molcho, cabinet secretary Dan Naveh and UN Ambassador Dore Gold – to continue talks with Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk and special envoy Dennis Ross, while Arafat left political aide Nabil Abu Rudeineh.

There were no direct contacts between Israeli and Palestinian delegates during the London meetings.

Liat Collins adds:

Meretz has filed a no-confidence motion in the prime minister over the London talks.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said the London meetings had been doomed to failure from the outset.

"The failure isn't in London. The failure is Binyamin Netanyahu," Sarid said. "The tragedy is that Netanyahu's failing could be the loss of all of us. The end of the diplomatic process could be the start of enemy acts and bloodshed."

MK Roman Bronfman (Yisrael Ba'aliya), who heads the forum of moderates in the coalition, is demanding an urgent meeting with Netanyahu. His group numbers some 20 MKs from various coalition factions and is an attempt to counterbalance the Land of Israel Front.

Bronfman called on the prime minister to abide by international commitments made in the Hebron Agreement, carry out the second further redeployment, and continue the negotiations with the Palestinians.

News agencies add:

"We have enough support to bring down [Netanyahu's] government and we will if he makes any withdrawal," said MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher), who heads the Land of Israel Front.

"We believe that if Netanyahu cannot withstand the American pressure he must call new elections."

Arafat, meanwhile, criticized Netanyahu for "not respecting peace accords," after arriving in Rabat, Morocco, where he was to meet with King Hassan II.

50 YEARS OF STATEHOOD
Is Self-Defense Still a Basic Right?
A discussion by
Ruth Matar and her guests
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Ministry of the Interior

Elections for the Knesset and Prime Minister (Consolidated Version) Law, 1969 ● Local Authorities (Elections) Law, 1965

Display of Voters Rolls for the Knesset and Local Authorities Elections, 1998/99

Pursuant to Sections 34 and 35 of the Elections for the Knesset and the Prime Minister (Consolidated Version) Law, 1969 (hereafter, the law), and Section 16 of the Local Authorities (Elections) Law, 1965, details are given hereunder of the days, times and locations at which the Knesset and Local Authorities Voters Rolls are to be displayed.

1. Registration in the Knesset Voters Rolls. As stated in Section 2 of the Law, only a person whose name appears in the rolls may vote in Knesset elections, this applying also to local authority elections.

2. Display of the Rolls for Public Inspection. In order to permit everyone to check whether he or some other person is registered correctly in the voters rolls, Section 34 of the Law requires the voters rolls to be displayed every year for public inspection, at Population Registry Offices.

3. Period of Display. This year, the rolls will be displayed from May 13 to May 22, 1998, both dates inclusive, religious requirements for the observance of days of rest being respected. In accordance with Section 34 of the law, all the rolls for a local authority will be displayed on all official bulletin boards in that locality, and these rolls only. The rolls will also be available by phone and in advertisements in the press.

4. Submission of Complaints and Appeals. Anyone who considers himself disadvantaged by the non-appearance or incorrect registration of his name in these rolls is, in accordance with Section 40 of the Law, entitled to submit a request/objection to the Minister of the Interior, through his local Population Registry Office, not later than June 1, 1998, on the appropriate form, obtainable at Population Registry Offices. When submitting the request/appeal, you must show your ID card. A person who submits a request/objection but does not receive a reply by June 25, 1998, or receives a reply he considers unsatisfactory, may submit an appeal to a court up to July 5, 1998. Such an appeal, which is exempt from a fee, is to be submitted on the appropriate form, obtainable from the secretariat of magistrates and district courts.

5. Display of Supplementary Voters Rolls for Residents of Local Authority Areas who are Not Israeli Citizens. In accordance with Section 16 (A) of the Local Authorities (Elections) Law, 1965, supplementary (appended) voters rolls, containing the names of residents who are not Israeli citizens, will be displayed with the Knesset Voters Rolls. Such residents are eligible to vote in the Local Authorities Elections, but since they are not citizens their names do not appear in the voters rolls, but only in the supplementary rolls. Notice will be given for local authorities which do not have supplementary rolls. Everything stated in para. 4 above regarding the submission of objections applies also to the appearance and non-appearance of names in these supplementary rolls.

6. Requests to Register in a Station Adapted for Handicapped Voters. A person who cannot vote in the station in which he is registered because of physical disabilities may submit a request to the Minister of the Interior to register at another voting station near his home which has facilities for handicapped voters.
The locations of these voting stations will be published on public bulletin boards in local councils.
Application forms requesting transferal to a voting station with facilities for handicapped voters are available at the Population Registry Offices, and also by mail by calling 09-7677249.
The signed request should be submitted on the appropriate form and sent to the address given on the form.
THE REQUEST MUST ARRIVE NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 1998.

7. The Locations and Times of Display are given below:
Places of Display
At all the district and sub-district Population Registry Offices of the Ministry of the Interior listed below, the voters rolls for the local authority areas coming under the office concerned will be displayed.
Hours of display: During the period noted in para. 3 above, the rolls will be displayed during the regular working hours of the office concerned.

GROUP "A" - Local Authorities

In addition to the above the rolls will also be displayed at the following locations, given below in alphebetical order:

ACRE
Municipality offices, Old City
Tourism Office
Beit Ha'am, Shikun Mizrah
Beit Heyman, north part of city

AFULA
Municipality offices
Beit Eshkol Community Center, Upper Afula
Cultural Center
Beit Poznak Community Center, Givat Hamore

ASHDOD
Municipality Building, Information Office, 12 Reh. Habanim
Beit Lavrun, Rova Vav

BAT YAM
Municipality Building, 17 Reh. Nordau
Municipality office, Ramat Yosef, 1 Reh. Struma
Municipality office, Avivim Complex, 3 Reh. Dolphin

BEERSHEBA
Public Complaints Office, Reh. Herzl
Information Office, Municipality Building, Reh. Hanesi'im
Shchunat Dalet Community Center

BNEI BRAK
Municipality office, 11 Kikar Hamelech

FIRE STATION, Reh. Hashomer
Etzion School, Reh. Uziel
Municipality office, 58 Reh. Yerushalayim

GIVATAYIM
Municipality Building, Information office, Reh. Sheinkin
Post Office Branch, 1 Reh. Rogozin

HADERA
Municipality office, Secretary's Bureau, Reh. Hillel Yafe
Kaplan School, Shikun Beit Eliezer
Or Lataf School, Givat Olga

HAIFA
Municipality Building, Reh. Hassan Shukri
Beit Rothschild Community Center, Central Carmel
Beit Kaplan, Sha'ar Ha'aliya
Beit Abba Khoushi, Neve Sha'anan
Beit Nagler Community Center, Kiryat Haim

HERZLIYA
Municipality office, 2 Reh. Hanatziv (main building)
Citizens Advice Service, 14 Reh. Ben-Gurion
Municipality office, Reh. Hamosdot

JERUSALEM
Building 1, Municipality Complex
Minhal Kehilati, Beit Yisrael Bucharim, 10 Reh. David
Main library, Eastern Jerusalem

KARMIEL
Municipality Building
Shil offices, Mishol Rakafot

KAUKAB EL-HIJA
Council Building
Library

KFAR TAVOR
Council office
Library

MA'ALOT-TARSHIHA
Ma'alot Municipality offices
Tarshiha Municipality offices
Ledor Vedor Community Center
Jaras Community Center

MIGDAL HA'EMEK
Municipality offices
Municipal ombudsman's office
Municipal hotline
Municipal Community Center

NAZARETH
Municipality offices
Public Library

NETANYA
Municipal offices, Reh. Herzl
Sinai School, Shikun Dora
School, Shikun Diur La'oleh
State religious school, Kiryat Sanz
Alonim School, Shikun Vatikim

PETAH TIKVA
Municipal Secretariat
Beit Yad Labanim

RAMAT GAN
Municipality offices, 35 Reh. Bialik
Givolim School, Reh. Hadar cor. Reh. Hatikva
Main library, 16 Reh. Hibat Zion
Psychological Services, 2 Reh. Ha'etzel

RAMLE
Municipality offices
Sharett State School, Shikun Giora

REHOVOT
Muncipality Secretariat
Sha'arim State Religious School

RISHON LEZION
Municipal Information Bureau, 24 Reh. Rothschild
Municipality offices, Ramat Eliyahu
Shikun Hamizrah, Reh. Aliya
Community centers: Shikun Hamizrah, Ramat Eliyahu, Kiryat Ganim, Kiryat Rishon, Mishor Hanof, Neve Yam

SAFED
Municipality offices
Culture Center, Shikun Canaan

SAJUR
Junior High School

TEL AVIV-YAFO
Municipality Building, Kikar Yitzhak Rabin
Citizens' Advice Service office, 14 Reh. Ben-Gurion
Minhelet Rovah Tsafon Mizrah, 16 Rehov Marcus, Ramat Hahayal
Minhelet Rovah Mizrah, Rehov Margolin, Yad Eliyahu
Minhal Hashchuna, 27 Rehov Yisrael Misalant, Shchunat Shapira
Minhelet Yafo, 28 Sderot Yerushalayim, Yafo
Rozin Community Center, Ramat Aviv Gimmel
Minhelet Rovah Dan, 174 Arlosoroff

TIBERIAS
Municipal Secretariat
Amidar offices, Shikun Dalet, Upper Tiberias

TUBA-ZANGARIYA
Council Building
Tuba Elementary School

In localities under the jurisdiction of Regional Councils or their responsibility, voters rolls will be displayed in the local council or secretary's offices.

GROUP "B" - Localities lacking municipal status

Hours of Display: During the entire period, the rolls will be displayed from 4 to 7 p.m.

Places of Display: In every town or institution of this group, the rolls will be displayed at the secretariat or office of the institution. For the localities listed below (in alphabetical order), the addresses are given hereunder.

AASAM	Al Aasam Elementary School
ABU AMAR	Elementary school, Al Aasam
ABU ABDON	Balkia Elementary School
ABU QARINAT	Abu Qarinat School
ABU REBIA	Abu Rebia School at Kachila
ABU REQIYIQ	Gimmel Elementary School at Tel Sheva
	Abu Kef Elementary School
	Torshan (Al Atrash) School
AFINISH	Rahat Vav School
ASAD	Balkiya Elementary School
ATAWNE	Al-Atawne School
ATRASH	Al-Atrash School, on Arad Road
CAESAREA	Local Committee
DEHI	Yabudi State School
HAZAYIL	Al Hazayil School near Rahat
	Rahat Gimmel School
HAWASHLE	Al Hawashle School
HWALID	Ali State Elementary School
KABUA	El Fura'a Elementary School near Arad
KFAR GALIM	Secretariat
MAHANE YATIR	Secretariat
MASUDIN AL-AZAZME	Sageiv Elementary School
	Arab el-Azazme School
MIKVE YISRAEL	Secretariat of Agricultural School
NASASRA	Rahat Gimel School
	Tel el-Meleh Elementary School at Kesfiya
NEVE AVOT	Office
OKBI (BANU AKABA)	Bahura School
QABUA	Hura School
QADIRAT AL-SANA	Balkiya Elementary School
QAWAIN	Hura School
RAS ALI	State School
SHANI	Secretariat
SID	Sa'id Bahura Elementary School
TARABIN AL-SANA	Rahat Heh School
ZBARGA	Elementary School Gimel
	Tel el-Meleh Elementary School at Kesfiya

May 1998

Eliyahu Suissa
Minister of the Interior

Israel is not 'in' for tourists – study

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Israel is not an "in" destination now because of its perceived position on the peace process; that, more than hotel rates, is what is causing the continuing drop in tourism from abroad.

This is the conclusion of Pannell, Kerr, Forster, a British-based international management consultancy firm, which conducted a study for the Hotel Association.

"If people don't feel they will be secure, they won't feel more secure if they pay $10 less for their hotel room," Melvin Gold, PKF's director of hotels, leisure and tourism services, told an association emergency meeting yesterday.

As the prospects for peace increased following the Madrid Conference in 1991, so did tourism, Gold said.

"However, the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in November 1995 and the change of government following the elections in May 1996 seemed, according to many observers and sentiment in the international press, to have halted or even reversed the progress that was being made."

The geopolitical uncertainty, he said, was the main reason tourism operators abroad exclude Israel from their general vacation brochures.

Secondary reasons include the fact that the tourist infrastructure is largely undeveloped outside of Eilat, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, that tourist volume is not large enough to support charter flights, an uncertainty concerning currency exchange rates, and a perception that Israel is expensive for tourists once they arrive.

However, PKF found that the price of a steak with two vegetables and dessert in a restaurant, for example, was higher in Athens, Madrid and even Cairo.

Another PKF survey found that Tel Aviv was seventh and Jerusalem eighth in a list of the average achieved room rate for a selection of European and Middle Eastern cities.

In the survey, which Gold said showed actual rates paid by guests, the Israeli cities came after Geneva, Paris, Moscow, London, Kuwait City and Rome. They were more expensive than Athens, Istanbul, Casablanca, Lisbon, Barcelona, Amman and Cairo.

Association president Michael Federman said that the hotels could not tell the government to follow policies that help encourage tourism, but it could ask the government for assistance in weathering a slump that is the result of these policies.

The association is asking the government to help with a massive marketing campaign and to limit municipal taxes on hotels to two percent of turnover.

Gold said that as the prospect of peace grew following the Madrid Conference in 1991, so did tourism.

MKs: Tourism industry not ready for 2000

By DAVID HARRIS

Opposition MKs yesterday attacked the Treasury for failing to commit sufficient funds to turn the millennium celebrations into a success for the tourism industry.

During a debate in the Knesset Finance Committee, the politicians charged that the Finance Ministry has allocated only NIS 40 million for all 2000 tourism projects, compared to the NIS 240m. promised.

"I fear we'll miss the opportunity of 2000," said MK Haim Oron (Meretz).

A possible solution to the funding problems was put forward by MK Yuri Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya), who co-heads the Knesset tourism lobby. He proposed creating a joint Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian Authority committee, which would aim to attract visitors to the region, selling Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and various sites in Jordan.

"There should be an emergency budget on top of the current NIS 10m. proposed by the Treasury [as part of its war on unemployment]," said MK Ahmed Sa'ad (Hadash).

Nazareth, which should be the focus of the celebrations, will not be ready for the expected influx of tourists, Sa'ad added.

The Labor Party's economics spokesman Avraham Shohat said the Tourism Ministry is reconsidering its prediction that four million tourists will visit Israel in 2000, given that tourism has been dropping in the past several years.



New hat in the ring

Attorney Elisha Peleg, a former Likud Jerusalem city councillor, announces his candidacy for mayor at a press conference yesterday. 'Jerusalem residents deserve a full-time mayor, not a mayor who's always busy with diplomatic issues,' he said, referring to the fact that Mayor Ehud Olmert is also an MK. He added that he sees the traditional and secular residents as his constituency, noting that many of them didn't bother to vote in the last municipal elections. Peleg, 45, promised that his electoral list, to be called For Jerusalem, would include an Arab and at least two women. (Brian Hendler)

Tarif vows to block J'lem annexation plan

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

The battle over the annexation of Mevasseret moved out to the field yesterday, when the Knesset Interior Committee met at the town's community center to hear what the residents had to say, and to tell them what they thought.

There was no decision to make, just a venue for Mevasseret residents to vent their anger and explain why they oppose the plan, and allow for the committee members to show publicly that they were in total support of the town.

"From the public's point of view, it was very important that the Knesset came here," said Carmi Gillon, former head of the General Security Service and a member of the committee formed to prevent the annexation. "They heard from us, and that was very important to us."

Committee chairman Sallah Tarif said the meeting "was very fruitful," and that his committee will not support Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert's suggestion to annex areas around Jerusalem.

"It's a bad plan, and it will not pass legislation in our committee," he said.

Most of the wrath coming from the audience was directed at Olmert, who was seen as Public Enemy No. 1 by the 150 residents in attendance. They, as well as committee members, claimed he was pushing annexation to solve the problems of his own city.

"If he has any problems with his citizens, meaning that he doesn't have enough money because the citizens don't pay enough taxes, he should go to the government and ask us, as members of the Knesset," said committee member Rafi Elul (Labor). "We can help him through there, but he shouldn't think that he can give money to the haredim there – because they cannot pay any municipal taxes – and to get the money from the people who live here."

MK Emanuel Zissmann (Third Way) said that he learned from the meeting "that the opposition of the residents to the annexation is very strong, very firm, and I am almost sure that this initiative of Olmert – and it is his initiative, not the initiative of the prime minister or the minister of the interior – is going to be a big failure.

"Nobody, including the government, is ready to support his initiative."

IMA renews struggle for more doctors

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Israel Medical Association has renewed its struggle for adding 360 job slots to the public hospital system.

In a letter to Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar asked him to announce within 10 days the results of his promised examination of the issue of doctors' job slots.

The Health and Finance ministries had committed themselves to the additional manpower last year as a way of easing difficulties in treating the growing number of patients, which according to the IMA is caused by "population growth, the ageing of the population and higher disease rates caused by growing unemployment."

Last August, the IMA declared a work dispute over the issue. Blachar said that the job slots had never been implemented, even though the lack of extra doctors "directly affect the health of the population."

In February, Rubinstein was to hold a hearing of both sides as a mediation effort, but it did not take place. While waiting for Rubinstein to act, the IMA also intends to go to court over the issue, Blachar said.

"The public health system is on the edge of collapse, and failure to add the job slots seriously harms health services," he said. "In addition, there is discrimination within the public hospital system, as the number of doctors' jobs has been increased in some government hospitals, but not in others."

Teacher acquitted of molesting pupils vows not to teach again

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Hours after a Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Judge acquitted a 46-year-old teacher of molesting four 11-year-old girls, Melvin Salomon vowed he would never teach again.

"Hell is too mild a word to describe what I and my family have been through," he said.

Shortly before Purim last year, Salomon, a teacher at state school in Kfar Shmaryahu, gave the pupils a project, asking them to interview relatives about why they came to Israel.

Some pupils, instead of doing the project individually as they were told to do, did it in groups. Salomon told them he would split the grade among the group and would also call their parents.

One of the girls, on hearing this, he said, burst into tears.

"When I saw how upset she became I decided not to contact her parents – but I didn't tell her," he said.

After the Purim vacation, he was told by the principal that he was being accused of molestation. Two days later, the principal informed the police.

After spending nine days in the Abu Kabir lock-up, a court confined him to house arrest until the end of his trial.

"The four girls claimed I had touched them inappropriately over their clothing during class," he said. "I begged the police to allow me to undergo a polygraph test and told them to ask other pupils, but they refused."

The girls had also claimed he had called them and invited them to his home when his wife wasn't there.

"It's ridiculous; I showed [police] my phone bills," Salomon said.

Now that the nightmare is over, he is ready to resume his life. His wife and three children are receiving psychiatric help.

"Now I have to start picking up the pieces," Salomon said.

Judge Hanan Efrati said in his verdict that when the pupils first complained about Salomon, they spoke with older pupils and were questioned by the school's adviser and principal, and it is possible that during these conversation, certain ideas were planted in their heads.

Efrati also slammed the police for serious problems in their investigation.

MK Blumenthal: Ethiopian Jews from Quara will be brought here

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

"The Jews of Quara will immigrate to Israel, the national home of all Jews, wherever they may be," Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee chairman MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) said yesterday.

At a meeting of the committee to discuss the plight of the community, located in the Gondar region, Blumenthal said the Jewish Agency and the Interior Ministry would send representatives to the region to locate the Jews and determine their eligibility for immigrating based on the Law of Return.

Rafi Cohen, director of the Interior Ministry's population registry, told the committee that the Interministerial Committee on Absorption is to meet within two weeks to set policy regarding the Jews of Quara.

MK Adisu Massala (Labor) told the committee that an estimated 2,500 Jews are still in Quara, on the border with Sudan, with another 2,000 in Gondar. He said that a portion of the community immigrated in 1992, but that many, including children and old people, stayed behind. "We will not rest," he said. "We will fight to bring the Jews of Quara here".

Avraham Negusa and Yafet Almo of the Kanaf Darom Lezion organization, who are familiar with the community's situation, said the Jews remaining in the Gondar region were dying of starvation and disease, and that immediate help was needed.

Jewish Agency Aliya Department head Mike Rosenberg said that a government decision is necessary regarding the continued efforts to bring these Jews to Israel.

This requires a combined effort on the part of the Interior Ministry, the Absorption Ministry, the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee, he said. Rosenberg said he would be visiting the area in the coming days. The committee is to reconvene when he returns.

NEWS

in brief

Parents protest renewal of school trip sanctions

The Israel Parents Association yesterday called on teachers and principals opposed to the continuing sanctions taken by the Histadrut Teachers Association and the Secondary Schools Teachers Association to make themselves heard and to openly oppose the sanctions. The Histadrut Teachers Association reinstituted its sanctions yesterday.

The parents group also said that school trips it is organizing in conjunction with the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, the Youth Hostels Association, Egged-Tlalim and other bodies will continue. The association also warned that any attempt to include teachers' strikes or anything that might interrupt the matriculation examination schedule would be met with a serious response from the parents. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Ministry ordered to compensate injured pupils

The Tel Aviv District Court yesterday ruled that the Education Ministry must compensate three pupils who were seriously injured in a schoolyard accident at Ein Hakorei Elementary School in Rishon Lezion 10 years ago.

A fourth pupil, Guy Varon, was killed in the accident, in which wind swept a pergola from a seventh-story apartment into the schoolyard where the children were playing.

The court held the school – but not the municipality or the apartment's owner – responsible, declaring that its staff should have realized it was dangerous to let the pupils play outside in the stormy weather. The amount of the compensation is to be determined at a future hearing. *Itim*

Hochberg says murdered girlfriend still alive

Dr. Amiram Hochberg, who is accused of murdering his girlfriend, Shlomit Bleichman, and her mother, Ida, told a Tel Aviv court yesterday that Shlomit is still alive.

Hochberg, in response to questions from the prosecution, said Bleichman is hiding abroad, for fear she will be arrested in connection with the murder of her mother. He added that she does not keep in touch with their son, whom he described as the center of her life. *Itim*

Water cut to Negev farmers who used too much

The Mekorot water company yesterday limited the supply of water to farmers in the upper Negev region, who were consuming more water than had been allocated to them and had emptied the area's reservoirs, risking the water supply to homes and industry.

Some customers had their water totally cut off, to give the reservoirs time to refill. Farmers apparently had drastically increased their use during the past several days due to the extremely hot weather. *Itim*

Gynecologist gets 9 years for raping patients

Dr. Bogdan Dekel, a Haifa gynecologist, was sentenced to nine years' imprisonment for raping two of his patients and sexually assaulting a third patient, who was 17 years old. Both patients he raped became pregnant; one had an abortion and the other gave birth to a son. The Haifa District Court ordered Dekel to pay child support.

Dekel denied the charges, claiming that the patients had consented. That Dekel is a doctor made his crimes even more deplorable, the judge said. *Itim*

Police raid J'lem garages for stolen parts

Police and inspectors from the Income Tax and VAT Authorities raided six garages in Jerusalem's Talpiot neighborhood yesterday, confiscating two cars they suspect were stolen, several engines bearing serial numbers of stolen cars and large numbers of parts they suspect were purchased from "chop shops" in the territories.

They also impounded receipts indicating the garages allegedly resold stolen parts. Twenty-two garage owners and employees were arrested. *Itim*

Knesset holds Herzog memorial session

The Knesset held a memorial session yesterday to mark the first anniversary of the death of president Chaim Herzog, described by Speaker Dan Tichon as: "a fighter, a diplomat, a man of the book and a statesman."

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said Herzog, as president, had done everything possible to strengthen the country and promote unity. "He will be remembered by all of us as a Jew, a Zionist, a diplomat, a fighter, a man of values and a man who managed to come from the Diaspora and become president." Several speakers noted the "British" characteristics of the Irish-born Herzog. *Liat Collins*

Ministry reports problems in Beduin schools

An Education Ministry committee established by the late minister Zevulun Hammer yesterday recommended a series of steps to redress serious problems in Beduin sector schools in the North. The committee, headed by Dr. Yosef Goldstein, pointed out several problems, including a large dropout rate, a low percentage of pupils who qualify for matriculation certificates, a low number of teachers who come from academic backgrounds, and a lack of psychologists and truant officers. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

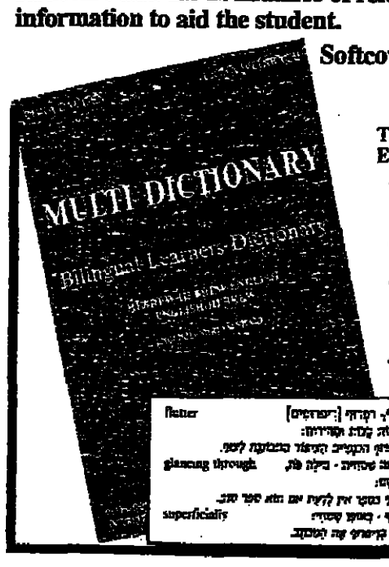
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Holbrooke's problem

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

An American special envoy arrives in the east Mediterranean and holds talks with both sides in the conflict. They fail, as predicted. The American envoy leaves in disgust, blaming the arrogant intransigence of the stronger side for its intransigence. Everyone else blames everyone else. No one knows when the mediator will return, if ever. Hark the drums of war!

Richard Holbrooke visited Cyprus this weekend, the latest in a long line of such envoys appointed in hope, tutored in reality, retired to oblivion.

Still sitting, like ancient immortals in their official residences on opposite sides of the last divided capital in Europe, are Presidents Glafcos Clerides and Rauf Denktash – once friends 40 years ago as student lawyers in London, now bitter enemies unable to reunite their small, divided island.

Hanging over the failure of Holbrooke's mission is a prophetic comment from the envoy's own recently published book, *To End a War*: "There will be other Bosnias in our lives."

Many good diplomats, both from the US and the UN, have been assigned to the thankless Cyprus problem, but Holbrooke may be by far the most substantial of them.

Club sandwich

His failure, and the speed with which he (correctly) blamed the Turkish side for it, are thus ominously significant. He also blamed the European Union for the hardening arteries of diplomatic communication on Cyprus – in other words, Turkey is to blame for a total lack of progress, and the EU is to blame for Turkey's attitude.

In truth, he blames Europe too much and Turkey not enough. Brussels angering of Turkey by rejecting its application for EU membership was a smaller price to pay than allowing this bullying, immature, militaristic state with its unstable democracy and dreadful human-rights record into the European Union.

Turkey has had years of warnings to clean up its act to European standards if it truly has European aspirations, yet it has failed to do so. It now sneers at the EU as "a Christian club" – playing the Islamic card abroad, while the army blatantly suppresses growing Islamic aspirations (democratically pursued) at home.

Holbrooke is a former banker whose book reveals its author as a shrewd diplomat and a skillful manipulator of President Bill Clinton; he managed to get the United States engaged in solving Bosnia through the Dayton peace process. After he cunningly grabbed the distracted and scattered attentions of a too-intelligent president and focused them on a (so far) major success in the nightmare Bosnia war, who better to tackle Cyprus?

Annexed

Cyprus usually rides alongside Northern Ireland as one of the world's most intransigent ethnic problems. Yet it is a problem that the UN has had tantalizingly close to solution for a decade. Not only is the solution relatively simple, it has basically been agreed upon by both sides: a two-zone federated state with a high degree of autonomy for Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

With the central structure agreed, negotiation should be about closing the gaps and building confidence. But the mood changes with Ankara's ill-temper.

Were it left to the Cypriots themselves (with international mediation and facilitation of course), the problem would be long solved. The trouble is that while Glafcos Clerides has real power among Greek Cypriots and could ride out unpopularity to make tough concessions, Rauf Denktash's presidential palace is an annex of the Turkish embassy in north Nicosia.

Denktash is by no means an unpopular puppet – his people are devoted to him – but a puppet he is. It sits uneasily on him at times for he is a man of real conviction, strength and leadership. Once, after finishing a lengthy interview with Denktash, during which I had asked him his views on Kurdish rights in Turkey, I was pursued by a Turkish embassy official who insisted I change my notes to read "mountain Turks" instead of "Kurds" because that was what Denktash "meant to say." Kurds did not exist.

Yo brother

I curtly told this self-appointed keeper-of-the-word that I knew the president well enough to respect his intelligence and quote him accurately. Denktash would never do such a thing through a minion, yet this Ankara spy seemed to think he could bully the media in Cyprus with the same impunity he enjoyed in Turkey. A Turkish Cypriot journalist friend glumly told me Denktash often got reprimanded for failing to be aware of all of Ankara's code words and euphemisms for uncomfortable facts.

Turkey's bone-headed denial for decades of its Armenian massacre, plus its concern for the rights of its "mountain Turks," expose its concern for the rights of its "Turkish Cypriot brothers." What is of concern to Turkey is territory, and what it grabbed in Cyprus it will not concede.

If it really cared for the separate and very Cypriot identity of the Turkish Cypriots, it would not have dumped tens of thousands of some of its own most backward, rural peasants as settlers onto the educated and Europeanized islanders. It would not have expunged every trace of Greek culture in northern Cyprus. It would not have ejected Richard Holbrooke from its colony empty-handed.

Tripping up the experts

The US economy, bursting with productivity, is likely to confound forecasters for years

By STEVEN PEARLSTEIN



A surge in spending by American consumers is being financed in part by gains from the booming stock market. (AP)

WASHINGTON – For nearly two years, respected economic forecasters have been predicting that the US economy was operating so close to its capacity that growth would just have to slow while prices rose.

And once again this week they were proven wrong.

The latest reports show the economy continued to expand at an annual rate of 4.2 percent, well above the expected 2.5% rate.

At the same time, average wages and benefits are rising at a slower pace than last year. And prices of things produced here are rising at an annual rate of less than 1%.

How can this be? In a world where nearly every American who wants one has a job, why aren't workers getting bigger raises and forcing companies to raise their prices, as happened so many times in the past?

In a word, the answer is productivity. The evidence is now overwhelming that US businesses are continuing to find ways to get more output from their workers, their machines and their technology, long after the initial wave of downsizing and cost-cutting.

Activities such as designing products to make them cheaper to produce and re-engineering processes to take out unnecessary costs have become a permanent focus of corporate America, imposed by a competitive marketplace and encouraged through compensation programs at all levels of the company.

At the same time, as a result of outsourcing and a wave of corporate mergers, more economic activity is being shifted out of inefficient firms – or those parts of firms that were inefficient — and into the hands of large, specialized companies that have figured out the best way to do things and can take advantage of the economies of scale.

Economists, of course, have known about productivity, specialization and scale efficiencies ever since Adam Smith. But what trips up today's hapless forecasters is that these developments don't occur in smooth, predictable patterns. And with each quarterly report from the government's economic agencies, there is growing evidence that the US economy is in the midst of one of those periodic bursts of productivity gains that is likely to confound forecasters for years to come.

"All the models basically assume that high growth leads to higher wages and higher wages lead to higher prices," explains Lawrence Chimerine, once one of the country's leading forecasters, who is now managing director of the Economic Strategy Institute in Washington.

"But what we are seeing is that productivity is running at twice the rate people were expecting – and even at that, I suspect that all the gains aren't fully reflected in the official statistics."

AT DANA Corp., for example, a Toledo, Ohio-based maker of auto parts, the kind of annual bidding once required by the Big Three automakers has been replaced by exclusive long-term contracts that allow for no price increases. To make it work, the company has held increases in base pay to 3 percent or 4% a year while reducing the growth in benefit cost by increased use of health management plans and self-insurance.

But don't feel too sorry for Dana or its workers. Because of the exclusive contracts and the booming economy, its sales were up 8% last year while profits climbed 20%. Dana shareholders have seen the value of their stock almost double in the last year while employees at virtually every level of the company have benefited as a result of relatively secure employment and stock options, gain sharing and other incentive pay plans, many of which are not picked up by the government's compensation index.

The secret to this formula, according to company officials, is a corporate culture in which every employee is expected to come up with two new ideas a month designed to increase productivity. Managers are expected to implement 8 out of every 10. Although the company isn't there yet, it is closing in on its goal: company-wide, Dana claims to be getting 1.5 ideas per worker per month with a 70% implementation rate.

Some of the ideas can be big ones, like outsourcing metal forging to lower-cost specialists. Or they can involve substantial investment, like building a modern facility that will not only produce axles and drive shafts, but immediately assemble them into entire truck chassis for just-in-time delivery to Chrysler plants nearby.

But more often the ideas are simple and inexpensive — like putting two bicycle mirrors on the underside of an auto axle production line, eliminating the time and backstrain of turning each axle over to inspect it. That one improved the productivity of the assembler who came up with it by 25%.

Government statistics suggest what is going on at Dana is hardly unique, particularly in the manufacturing segment of the economy.

In the last year, the Labor Department figures the price of new automobiles declined 0.7%, once adjustments are made for the quality improvements in the new models.

At the same time, the department calculates the base compensation paid to the typical manufacturing worker has increased 2.9% over the past year – a combination of a 3.6% increase in base pay and a 1.3% increase in benefits.

Last year's hefty $350 million Dana plan to invest in new plant and equipment is also pretty typical. The Commerce Department this week reported that inflation-adjusted capital spending by businesses was running at the annual rate of 18% in the first three months of this year, boosted by a whopping 29% jump in spending for computers and other machinery.

INVESTMENT – and the extra productivity it brings – is not the only factor driving the economy, however. Equally important has been the surge of spending by the great mass of American consumers who, after a long wait, are finally beginning to enjoy the fruits of the current economic expansion. Aside from modest increases in hourly pay, this spending spree is being financed by incentive and record levels of overtime pay, the benefits of home mortgage refinancing, lower energy prices and gains from a booming stock market.

"Workers are just now starting to catch up for years of stagnation in their real wages – and they are not shy about spending it," said Joel Popkin, a private economist in Washington.

In the first three months of this year, in fact, the Commerce Department estimates personal consumption expenditures were rising at an inflation-adjusted annual rate of 6%, driven largely by an 18% surge in spending for autos, home appliances and other big-ticket items.

One company that surely benefited from all that has been appliance maker Maytag Corp., based in Newton, Iowa. Last quarter, Maytag's sales shot up 25% while quarterly profits increased 50% over the same quarter in 1997, helping to double Maytag's stock price in the last year.

David D. Urbani, Maytag's treasurer, says much of the company's good fortune has been driven by a shift in consumer preference for its more expensive washers, dryers, refrigerators and vacuum cleaners.

Among the big sellers has been the new front-loading washing machine that fits better into tight spaces and offers a bigger tub while using less water. The hefty $1,100 price tag for the new machine is more than double that for basic models, where prices have remained unchanged in recent years because of competitive pressures applied by Sears, Best Buy and other big retailers.

This widening gap between the price of top-of-the-line and standard models in the home appliance market is being replicated all across the economy. The price of discount airfares, for example, continues to decline, even as the price of business fares have climbed 37% in recent months. And while the cost of general telephone service has begun to creep up, special calling plans make it cheaper than ever to check in with mom on Sunday afternoons. Health insurance prices have also diverged, depending on whether you're buying traditional fee-for-service or health-maintenance plans.

From the standpoint of airlines, hospitals and telephone companies, this flexibility in setting prices represents nothing short of a revolution, allowing them to operate at or near capacity in good economies and bad. From the standpoint of the economy, it has eliminated old rigidities, lowering average costs and making it less likely that all prices will rise together in lock step. That makes it harder for an old-fashioned inflationary cycle to get started.

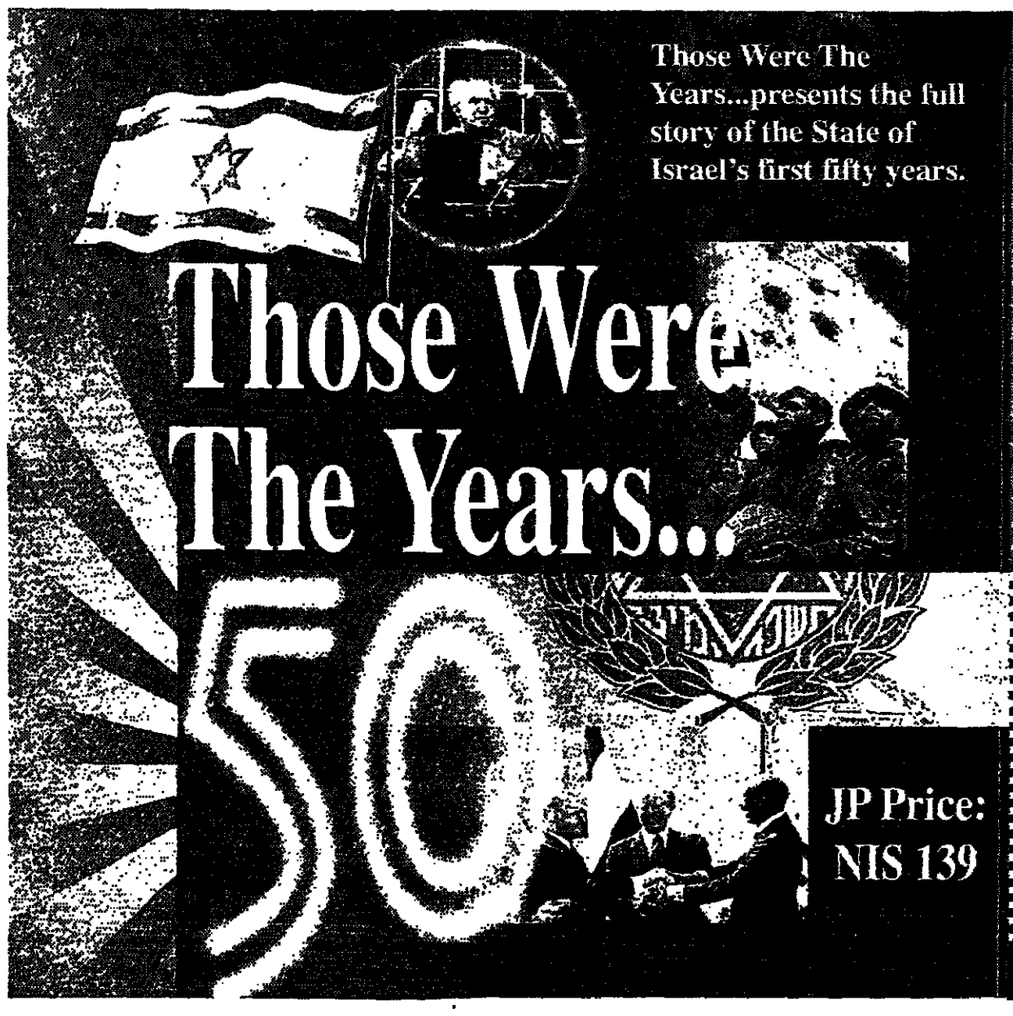
The same pricing flexibility now also holds true for labor markets.

Reflecting the diminished power and prevalence of organized labor, pattern bargaining between firms or even within firms is a thing of the past. Experienced pilots of huge jumbo jets continue to enjoy princely pay while flight attendants and commuter pilots have trouble making ends meet. And while high-tech firms have had to offer double-digit pay increases for computer programmers and fast-food joints are offering signing bonuses for part-time counter help, it is no longer likely that such increases will spill over into other job categories.

In an era when it is possible to outsource almost any activity, a company that overpays its assemblers or its accountants or its security guards will soon find itself losing market share to a company that has those jobs done at prevailing market rates — either here in the United States or elsewhere.

"With global competition, individual workers with key skills may have more bargaining power but workers as a group have much less," said economist Chimerine. "As a result, you're not getting the same kind of general wage pressures that you had in the past."

(The Washington Post)



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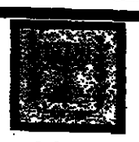
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هكذا من الاعلى

US intelligence sources:

Khatami pushing to end support of terrorism

By R. JEFFREY SMITH

WASHINGTON (Washington Post) – US intelligence officials said this week that they have concluded that Iran's new president, Mohammed Khatami, is sincerely lobbying for an end to the government's support of terrorism. The support is continuing only because he has not yet consolidated his control over the relevant security and intelligence services, they said.

"It is clear to us that Khatami is the real thing, that he and his supporters within the Iranian government do wish to change Iranian policy with regard to terrorism ... in a direction that would relieve some of the impediments to improved relations between Iran and western countries," said a member of a group of representatives from various US intelligence organizations, who spoke to a group of reporters on condition that he and his colleagues not be named.

The statements contradict the State Department's blanket denunciation last Friday of Iran's continued sponsorship of global terrorism.

The State Department depicted Iran as a country with new leaders who have merely paid lip service to the notion that terrorism is wrong, implying the leaders were trying to lull the world into thinking the country had turned away from political violence while continuing covert assassinations and bombings.

There appears to be no dispute within the US administration about the underlying facts – Iran has continued to provide money, training and weapons to Hamas, Hizbullah and Islamic Jihad, according to intelligence information received well after Khatami's inauguration in August.

But the difference in tone between officials in the State Department, a policymaking organization that has long backed a strident posture against Iran, and the intelligence analysts was striking. One explanation might be that CIA Director George J. Tenet has unabashedly embraced the controversial view that Khatami's election could eventually lead to a sea change in Iranian domestic and foreign policy.

Testifying in late January before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Tenet said Khatami leads a group of moderates engaged in "a genuine struggle ... [with] hard-line conservatives." He said then that even though Khatami had won 70 percent of the vote, the hard-liners remain a formidable obstacle to reform and have maintained control of key defense and security organizations.

Tenet's views are said by several officials to have played a major role in the administration's decision to soft-pedal some of its anti-Iran rhetoric and to respond with cautious optimism to Khatami's plea on Cable News Network in January for unofficial exchanges that might break down a "bulky wall of mistrust" between Iran and the US.

Terrorism remains one of the thorniest obstacles to any rapprochement, however, and a senior State Department official who briefed reporters Thursday declined repeatedly to draw any distinction between the pre-Khatami and post-Khatami policy toward terrorism.

In a sign of possible division on this point within the Clinton administration, the intelligence official said it is "too soon to draw conclusions regarding changes."

He added that "to the extent that we are continuing to see Iranian terrorist activity, specifically support for the groups ... some of what we're seeing reflects Khatami simply not having won the [political] struggle, at least not yet."

Turkish Cypriots: US didn't do homework before talks

ONICOSIA (Reuters) - Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash yesterday accused the United States of not doing its homework on the Cyprus problem before sending a top envoy on a peace mission to the divided island.

Denktash said US mediator Richard Holbrooke failed to bring the two rival communities together in talks on Cyprus last weekend due to bad timing and a poor understanding of entrenched positions.

"Unfortunately he came before the ground was prepared for him and he came under the impression that everything was moveable and arguable," Denktash said in an interview.

Denktash said Holbrooke did not anticipate the strength of Greek Cypriot refusal to accept the breakaway Turkish Cypriot enclave as a sovereign state, a key Turkish Cypriot demand.

"He has discovered that, with the ideas with which he came, nothing could be done because of the Greek Cypriot position," Denktash, a British-trained lawyer, said in English.

Holbrooke, often praised for drafting the Dayton 1995 accord that ended the Bosnia war, on Monday put most of the blame on the Turkish Cypriots for the lack of progress in his Cyprus bid.

The US point man cited Turkish Cypriot insistence that the Cypriot government drop its membership negotiations with the European Union and recognize the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as the main sticking points in fruitless talks.

But Denktash said he was heartened by remarks from Holbrooke that the internationally recognized Greek Cypriot government could not realistically claim to rule the Turkish Cypriots.

"I hope now that as high an authority as Mr. Holbrooke has pointed out that the Greek Cypriots cannot represent the Turkish Cypriot side, people who have a conscience....will take a second look at the facts of Cyprus," he said.

Cyprus has been divided since Turkey invaded in 1974 in response to a Greek Cypriot coup backed by the military junta then in power in Athens.

A string of international efforts to reunite the island on a bi-federal basis have come to grief amid bitter mutual mistrust between the communities.

Denktash sees the start of EU talks with the Greek Cypriots last March as an attempt to increase member Greece's influence over the island at the expense of non-member Turkey.

The Turkish Cypriots have refused offers to join the Greek Cypriot delegation at the EU negotiations.

"I am not jumping on this Greek train heading to a station where Greece is waiting with open arms and Turkey is not there as my protector. It is out of the question," said Denktash.

However, he suggested he could make some concessions if the Greek Cypriots shelved plans to install anti-aircraft missiles on the island in the coming months.

"The missiles are an unlawful criminal act which is not compatible with making peace," he said. "Don't do it. Don't commit this crime in Cyprus, then you will get something." Turkey, the Turkish Cypriots' close ally, has threatened to use force to prevent the deployment of the S-300 missiles.

Denktash ruled out giving ground on key issues in advance as part of any deal to cancel the missile plan.

"We are told that if we give up our claim to statehood and and support the EU membership bid, then the Greek Cypriots will give up the S-300 missiles. We are not in for such a bargain and we never will be," he said.

Triple shooting rocks Vatican

By PHILIP PULLELLA

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) – The Vatican went into mourning yesterday after the normally sleepy city-state was shocked by the grisly triple shooting of the new head of the papal Swiss Guard, his wife and another guard.

Autopsies were being performed on the bodies of Captain Commandant Alois Estermann, 43, his Venezuelan wife Gladys Meza Romero and vice-corporal Cedric Tornay.

Chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said there was preliminary evidence to suggest Tornay, 23, killed the new commandant and his wife in a "moment of madness" before turning a gun on himself.

The three were found dead in Estermann's apartment in the Vatican on Monday night, he said.

Navarro-Valls said he would release more information after the doctors had performed the autopsies. He declined to give more details.

The Vatican's sole magistrate, Luigi Marone, has begun an investigation.

Estermann, who had been appointed head of the 100-member Swiss Guard by Pope John Paul just 10 hours earlier, was one of the guards who shielded the pontiff during a 1981 assassination attempt in St. Peter's Square.

The triple killings were the first violent deaths at the Vatican in living memory.

They brought the kind of murders common in modern cities inside the walls of the tiny city-state, shattering the usually sleepy atmosphere in the world headquarters of Roman Catholicism.

The yellow and white Vatican flag flew at half staff at the barracks of the world's smallest and perhaps most colorful army. Navarro-Valls said a swearing-in ceremony of new recruits set for today had been cancelled.

Recruits placed candles on the window sills of their barracks during the night.

Most people who reside inside the city-state are cardinals, bishops, priests and nuns. A small number of non-clerics also live there, the majority of them members of the Swiss Guard and the Vatican gendarmerie or other essential staff such as firefighters and medics.

Estermann and his wife lived in an apartment inside the large wrought iron Porta Sant'Anna gate to the right of St. Peter's Square and close to the Swiss Guard barracks.

The tall, slender Estermann, who usually wore a smart grey suit while on duty, distinguished himself on May 13, 1981 when he jumped on the moving "popemobile" in St. Peter's Square seconds after Turkish gunman Mehmet Ali Agca shot and nearly killed the pope.

Estermann shielded the pope from any further attack and helped hold up the pontiff while the popemobile raced to an ambulance.

Well known to Vatican reporters because he often accompanied the pope on overseas trips, Estermann had been deputy commandant of the guards since 1989 and spoke several languages. He joined the guard force in 1980.

He and Tornay were Swiss nationals and Roman Catholics, as are all members of the Swiss Guard.

The Swiss Guard was founded in 1506. On May 6, 1527, 147 of them were killed in St. Peter's Square protecting Pope Clement VII during the sacking of Rome by the forces of Emperor Charles V.

Guards on sentry and ceremonial duty still dress in tunics of blue, red and yellow and are armed with mediaeval halberds.

Legend has it that the uniforms were designed by Renaissance painter and sculptor Michelangelo.



Alois Estermann, here seen in an undated file photo. The newly appointed head of the Vatican's Swiss Guard, his wife and another member of the elite corps were found shot to death in Estermann's apartment. (AP)

India's defense minister blasted for claiming Beijing poses military threat

BEIJING (Reuters) - China yesterday expressed "utmost regret and resentment" at comments by India's defense minister over the military threat posed by Beijing and warned they could sabotage friendly relations.

Defense Minister George Fernandes said on Sunday that China had built a sophisticated electronic surveillance base in Myanmar's Coco Islands and was upgrading airfields in Tibet to take supersonic fighters capable of striking at India's borders.

"China expresses utmost regret and resentment," Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao said yesterday in China's first official reaction. "China does not pose any threat to neighboring countries," he told a news conference.

The comments would "seriously sabotage the favorable atmosphere for developing friendly relations", Zhu said.

Fernandes, a former socialist firebrand whose Samata Party is a key partner in the Hindu nationalist-led ruling coalition, said India had long focused on the threat from Pakistan while ignoring the equal danger posed by China.

Zhu poured scorn on Fernandes using unusually strong language.

"His so-called view that China constitutes the principle threat to India is absolutely ridiculous and not worthy of refutation," Zhu said. "His accusation concerning China's relations with relevant countries is utterly fictitious and has no basis in facts."

Beijing-based diplomats said Zhu's sharp comments represented a warning to India to rein in its outspoken defense minister before he caused more damage.

They said China regarded the accusations as particularly offensive since it had worked hard in recent years to settle border quarrels with all its neighbors, including India.

China fought a brief border war with India in 1962, but relations have now warmed.

"They're puzzled and annoyed at the Indians for coming out with this sort of thing," said one diplomat. "The Chinese have been doing everything they can over the last two or three years to calm the Indians down. They have been going round their borders trying to patch things up with everyone. And they think the Indians ought to be doing a little bit more to acknowledge this." By delivering a "slap on the wrist" to Fernandes, China was "hoping that his own government will call him to order," the diplomat added.

French spymaster Fourcaud dies

PARIS (Reuters) - Col. Pierre Fourcaud, who helped set up the Free French secret services in London during World War II and remained a spymaster through part of the Cold War, has died in Paris at age 100, his family said yesterday.

Fourcaud, born in St. Petersburg, Russia, of a French father and Russian mother, joined the French army in 1916, was wounded three times during World War I and was awarded a battlefield commission to become an officer.

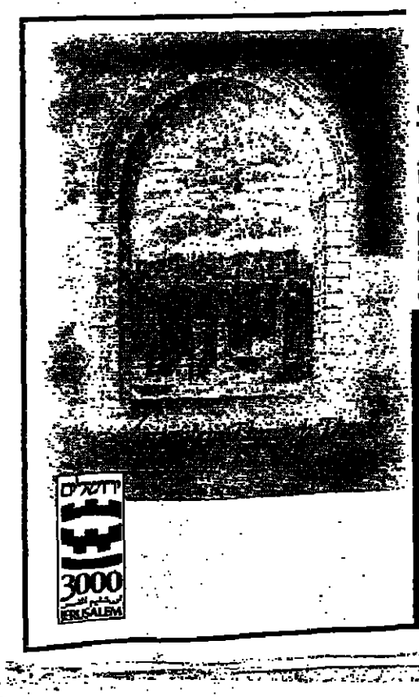
He rallied behind Gen. Charles de Gaulle's Free French movement in London shortly after its creation in June 1940 and was appointed deputy head of its BCRA intelligence service.

Fourcaud was parachuted or landed in occupied France several times on secret missions during the Nazi occupation and was twice arrested by the Gestapo but each time escaped.

Like other BCRA chiefs, Fourcaud took his wartime cover name, Barbes, from the name of a Paris metro station.

He remained in the French intelligence services until his retirement in 1958 and was involved in operations during France's Indochina war and in operations against Warsaw Pact states.

One of just over a thousand holders of the coveted Cross of the Liberation personally awarded by General de Gaulle to foremost Resistance figures, Fourcaud was also an officer of the British Empire, holder of the British Distinguished Service Order and American Distinguished Service Cross.



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A US Marine Corps general's Cuban odyssey

By JACK SHEEHAN

As a young Marine in the 1960s, I walked the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base fence line, dug fighting holes and repaired minefields in case of an attack on the US base by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba.

As a commanding officer in the 1990s, I spent eight years in charge of US military planning for Cuba, including three years as commander in chief, US Atlantic Command. Last year I retired, and in March, I spent a week touring Cuba, culminating in a long and friendly dinner with Fidel Castro, the longtime chief of state in Havana.

If my thinking and experience are any guide, there are real possibilities for improved relations between Cuba and the US.

After my retirement, I devoted myself to addressing the central questions facing the US in its dealings with Cuba: What are the new realities of this relationship and what policy options does the US have?

I learned the World Health Organization, the British aid agency Oxfam and other relief agencies had become concerned about conditions in Cuba. It soon became clear to me that the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, commonly known as Helms-Burton, was causing economic and health problems for the average Cuban citizen.

So five weeks after the visit of Pope John Paul II, I traveled to the island with a delegation from Americans for Humanitarian Trade With Cuba, a group that favors relaxing the current economic embargo.

During our seven days on the island, we visited hospitals, the Cuban health, economics and planning ministries, relief agencies and dissident groups, and we talked with government officials and ordinary citizens. I also spent a day and a half with Raul Castro, commander of the Cuban armed forces, visiting military units around the country.

WHEN YOU spend decades studying a problem from satellites and intelligence reports, your judgments are based on abstract data. When you walk the ground and see the data as real people, you get a very different feel for the facts.

I knew the statistics indicating that the average Cuban's life is very difficult because of the shortage of medicine and food. Then I visited William Soler Pediatric Hospital in Havana and saw children recovering from surgery with unnecessary pain because there was insufficient medication.

I visited Santiago de Cuba, a city of more than 400,000 people, and learned there are only five buses for public transportation. I talked to mothers who wonder what will happen to their children when they reach the age of 7 and the family loses its milk allotment.

Yet in spite of the suffering of the Cuban people, I found that they are able to distinguish between the American people and US foreign policy. They despise Helms-Burton but show a great affection for Americans.

I went to San Juan Hill in Havana, where Teddy Roosevelt and his men charged Spanish positions in 1898 and saw a statue of a Rough Rider standing next to a statue of a Cuban soldier.

Cubans and Americans fought and died together on that hill.

I could not help but think about how little has changed in US-Cuban relations since 1959, when Castro and his supporters fought their way to power.

Since then, the US government has supported the failed exile invasion at the Bay of Pigs, fought a major war in Vietnam and confronted the Soviet Union around the world.

Cuba's foreign policy in the same period, including military assistance to leftist allies in Africa and Latin America, reinforced all the negative images of Castro in the US. (In the '70s, Cuba sent more troops per capita to fight in Africa than the US sent to fight in Vietnam.)

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 and its assistance to Cuba ended, the Cuban economy went into free fall.

The "special period," as it is called in Cuba, saw a disastrous 15 percent reduction in the economy each year between 1990 and 1993. Life for the average Cuban was reduced to a quest for survival.

In 1994 came the rafter crisis in which almost 40,000 Cubans left their country on rafts because the quality of life had become intolerable.

All the while, the US policy of diplomatic hostility and economic embargo remained the same.

I BEGAN dealing directly with the Cuban military in 1994, as director of plans and policy at US Atlantic Command and later as commander in chief. As a result of the rafter crisis, the US military opened migrant camps at Guantanamo Bay at a cost of $1 million a day.

During my frequent visits to the camps, it became obvious to me that the Cubans seeking to leave still loved their country and were proud of its educational and health-care system but could no longer bear the deprivation created by the embargo and exacerbated by the cancellation of Soviet assistance.

My colleagues and I in the US military sought to reduce the possibility of a misunderstanding between Cuban and American forces.

We met regularly with senior Cuban officers. These were not political discussions, but rather exchanges between professional soldiers.

It became very clear to those of us on the US side that Cuba was changing and that this was not the Cuba of the '60s and '70s. Our intelligence data also supported the conclusion that Cuba was not a military threat to the US.

The Cuban military was enlisted in the national effort to make the country self-sufficient in food production. Today, the Cuban military produces about 2% of the country's food. The majority of its military equipment is in storage, and its war-fighting abilities have declined.

Cuba's front-line pilots now fly only about 30 hours a year. (US Air Force pilots fly about 20 to 30 hours a month.) The Cuban military has become a home defense force.

Unfortunately, on February 24, 1996, Brothers to the Rescue, a Miami-based organization created to rescue rafters, sent three planes to the edge of Cuban air space. The Cuban air force shot down two of the planes, killing four people.

While low-level contacts on issues ranging from the migration to drug interdiction eventually resumed, all discussions on changing the dynamics of Cuban-American relations ceased. I didn't talk to Cuban military officers again until my trip.

MY MEETING with Fidel Castro took place in the Palace of the Revolution. After a formal meeting with a group of Cuban officials, we had a small sit-down dinner.

I asked Castro about his family. He talked about his father, a former Spanish soldier who bought and farmed a small plot of land that was surrounded by huge tracts owned by offshore international fruit companies.

When I asked about his early years, Castro's revolutionary voice emerged.

"Batista [the former dictator] sold Cuba to the fruit companies and the mafia," he said in a very soft voice, "and they all took advantage of the Cuban people."

Also at the dinner was Gen. Arnaldo Tamayo Mendez, a black Cuban air force officer who had shown me around his hometown of Guantanamo City, next to the US base. During the Batista era, he told me, he had shined shoes because that was the only work he could get.

See CUBA, Page 17

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A theater of healing

By HELEN KAYE

Last week UK director and drama therapist Professor Sue Emmy Jennings signed a year's lease on a Tel Aviv apartment, and her multicultural production of Aristophanes's *Lysistrata* opened at the Habamah Theater in Jerusalem.

Israel is practically her second home. She's been commuting ever since she did her first drama therapy workshop at Tel Hai in 1987.

She chose *Lysistrata* for her first full-fledged local production because of its message and because it's "rude, funny and entertaining."

This outrageous comedy is as topical now as it was in ancient Greece.

The title character, plucky Lysistrata (played by Rose Meshichi), leads the women of Athens and Sparta to withhold sex from their men until they stop fighting each other.

"Greek fighting Greek," Lysistrata says, buttoning her chastity belt, as it were. "It's disgraceful."

The bawdy, witty gender battle rages back and forth, but in the end both sides have to give ground, even though the women sort of win.

The local cast includes Israelis, Arabs and some members of Jennings's two-year-old, London-based Rowan Theater Company, which is itself a multiracial company.

Jennings is not another well-intentioned outsider who has come to make peace between Arabs and Jews with a production which speaks English, Arabic and Hebrew, and which addresses both the empowerment of women and the stupidity of conflict and confrontation versus dialogue and compromise.

"I didn't want this to be just another simplistic device for getting Arabs and Jews to talk with each other," she says. "My question was how can a group of people create something cohesive beyond their cultural, social and political differences. Theater is the tool for this because it transcends differences and because, when you put on a play, the cast and the crew have to work together."

That, in a nutshell, is what Jennings is about.

Theater is her two-way street to understanding. It is both social and esthetic, a medium that is transformative and healing.

For more than 40 years she has worked as a professional actress, director and drama therapist. The way she sees it, the three are linked because all require excellence and the skills that only thorough training can render.

"Drama therapy", she says, "isn't role playing. It's an esthetic experience which helps people recognize the differences between dramatic imagination, dramatic reality and concrete reality. You need a dramatic imagination to develop a conscience which helps us understand the consequences of what we do. So drama therapy helps people first to establish borders and then to recognize the differences between concrete and imaginative reality. Theater offers insight into a new way of being," she says.

Jennings has taken her ideas and her actors into prisons, mental hospitals, institutions for the physically disabled and the mentally retarded. She uses the great classics as vehicles for the workshops and the productions she does there.

In New York, where she works every second year as a visiting professor at New York University, she was asked to do a program at the Rykers Island prison. She decided on *Romeo and Juliet*. The prison staff was cynical and apprehensive. "'No swearing and no touching," she was told. "The guys won't do this," they said.

But they did.

"We divided them into the Montagus and the Capulets and taught them to swear in Shakespeare," says Jennings. "They loved it. One little guy, a Puerto Rican, was fierce. 'Birdsegg,' he said to another prisoner. The staff was amazed. This was the first word he had spoken in the five months he'd been at the prison."

Jennings's first contact with what she calls "special populations" was when her school friend's psychiatrist father – "and this was years before anybody really thought it could help" – asked her to work with his patients. This was when she was 17 and working as a dancer in the chorus of the George Formby musical *Zip Goes a Million*, her first professional job.

Jennings was born in 1938 to a dancer mother and a physician father. She wanted to be a dancer, "but at 11 I suddenly shot up and in those days if you were taller than 1.60 m., you were too tall. So I went into theater."

The years went by. Jennings married, divorced, raised three children, and worked.

In 1964 she formed her own company which toured West and East Germany "because I always had the idea that theater could and should cross borders, actual and symbolic. We took *The Importance of Being Earnest* and parts of *Henry VI*."

She went into hospitals and other institutions "and got the people involved."

Working with these people showed Jennings that training was needed, but in those days there wasn't any. So in 1968 she created the first workshop in North London for which she devised the courses and the methods.



'Theater should cross borders, actual and symbolic,' says Sue Emmy Jennings.

"Obviously there was a need for a solid theoretical base as well as clinical and artistic knowledge and experience. But the heart of the training seeks to rediscover the healing function of theater, that transformative core in theater which can change a person's perceptions and, if it really works, that change can be amazing and permanent."

One thing led to another and by the early 1980s Jennings had a doctorate, had published several books, and set up the Drama Therapy Institute in London, where the Israel connection started.

Dr. Muli Lahad, to whom Jennings has dedicated her most recent book on drama therapy, and who is head of the Community Stress Prevention Program, was one of her students at the Institute while working on his doctorate.

All through the Eighties and into the early Nineties, Jennings traveled extensively, using the classics to develop theater projects for hospitals, schools and even governments, using trained theater professionals together with workshop participants.

The establishment of the Rowan Theater in 1996 was "to look at more ways of having dialogue and to look at women's hidden history."

She and cofounder Joan Walker commissioned and performed in plays about unsung women like *Mrs. Freud and Mrs. Jung* or *Rosalind Franklin*, the woman who contributed to the discovery of DNA.

Rowan also continues with drama therapy/theater projects such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the troubled province of Northern Ireland, where there will also be a production of *Lysistrata*, following the London production.

Jennings will be off to England at the end of June to oversee both, but she'll be back in October when she may do *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Arabic in Haifa. But the big project will be *King Lear* in Hebrew.

Meanwhile, "my aim is to put on an artistically excellent play that as many people as possible will see. If it contributes even a hair's breadth to understanding, that's good," she says.

Lied singers in J'lem

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Thirty-three young Israeli singers will gather in Jerusalem today and tomorrow for the first round of the first Vocal Competition for Israeli Singers, in Honor of Professor Vera Rozsa-Nordell.

The competition was inaugurated by the Jerusalem Rubin Academy for Music and Dance in cooperation with the Jerusalem Music Center. And handsome prizes ($5,000, $3,000, $2,000, respectively for the first three winners) await those who will emerge the best on this occasion.

Competitions are always exciting but artistic competitions, where there is no meter, stopper or baskets counted to set a clear yardstick, are always problematic. At times the winners are very obvious, at others they are far from it.

Among music competitions, singing ones are the strangest of all.

The average classical music singer can make a career only if he or she is versed in operatic repertoire and has a chance to perform with opera houses all over the world. There are relatively few singers who make a "career" – at least at the beginning when they yearn to be known – just from singing recitals and concerts, although most singers will tell you they long to do concert work.

To begin with, it is much less time-consuming than opera, totally different in style and at times more rewarding and less taxing. So singers who want to be ready for any kind of job opportunity must be versed in opera and concert work alike.

Yet the bulk of most singing competitions, aside from the clear opera ones, are based on lieder, those delicate, intimate art songs written in the second half of the last century and the beginning of this century mainly in central Europe and France.

The lieder is an ocean of riches which very seldom gets thoroughly explored. For one reason or another, lieder recitals do not sell out instantly, whereas violin and piano concerts fill the hall.

Singers are geared to a more refined audience, and there are fewer lieder enthusiasts than those of any instrument.

Lieder is an acquired taste. Those who love it simply revel in each opportunity to enjoy it. But the last time a lieder recital sold out in Israel was many years ago, if at all.

The last vocal competition to be held in Israel was the Leonard Bernstein contest two years ago and it was a total flop. That competition focused only on concert repertoire, avoiding lieder and opera altogether. It revealed above all that most of the contestants were too much engaged in the opera world and very remote from the real sense and essence of non-operatic singing.

The Vocal Competition for Israeli Singers will serve two major purposes.

First of all, it will be an indicator as to the general level of lieder, concert and opera singing in Israel. But even more, it could show us if there are some singers among the current young crop who are actually attuned with what lieder singing is all about. Because even if this facet of the repertoire is the less appealing career-wise, it is definitely the most rich and engaging of all.

The repertoire of this competition is a mix and match from opera and oratorio, through cantatas and concert works to lieder. It is not focused enough, and it will not be aimed at finding the consummate lieder interpreter.

Perhaps demanding singers to sing in such varying styles is wrong.

But be that as it may, it will be interesting to find out if the land which has pampered the world with some of the finest violinists and pianists around can claim identical success for its vocal talents. To date, only a few Israeli singers have managed to really make it out there.

Maybe some new ones will experience stardom after this competition.

The Vera Rozsa-Nordell Vocal Competition of Israeli Singers continues until May 17 in Jerusalem.

Russian delights

CLASSIC DISCS

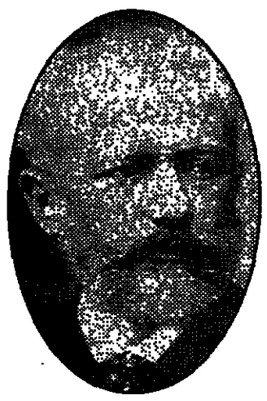
By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

It is always intriguing to compare commercial recordings of certain musicians with their live performance. And so a week before Julian Rachlin makes his Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, IBA debut playing the Brahms violin concerto, I listened to his recent recording of the Tchaikovsky and the first Prokofiev violin concerti to get a taste of the violinist and his artistry.

The result is very engaging.

These concerti were recorded live in Moscow three years ago with the Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Vladimir Fedoseyev. Even if at times the overall recording sound is not as exemplary as one might hope from Sony (SK 66 5677) and the orchestra lacks the precision and clarity of a Western symphony orchestra, the overall effect is truly exciting.

It is very easy to play through the motions and emotions of the Tchaikovsky concerto. The trick is how to make it captivating and not



Peter Tchaikovsky

boring. Because this concerto, with its clear schmaltzy overtones, is played far too often and occasionally one has to ask why.

But in this case, the answer is clear.

Rachlin provides a very sensitive, inquisitive and far from obvious reading of the score. He does not play into the sentimentality which envelops the piece. Rather, he shies away from it and presents a more classic interpretation with a very clear sense of our time.

There is no mere romanticism here. Quite the contrary.

Rachlin's musicianship is even more beguiling in his interpretation of the first Prokofiev concerto. This is a far less popular opus than the Tchaikovsky, and their coupling here provides the violinist with an opportunity to present his musicianship most admirably.

Guided by Fedoseyev's very clear baton, Rachlin delves deep into the inner soul of this concerto and brings out all its minute subtleties. He does not opt for bravura but suggests something more subdued, introverted and exploratory.

In both these concerti, Julian Rachlin emerges as an excellent violinist and a very fine musician who is willing to challenge himself and his audience in whatever he performs.

His technique is flawless, his sensibilities intriguing. The only thing one has to find out now is if all this can be translated into a live performance of a concerto from a different repertoire.

If Rachlin is able to give Brahms as much as he does Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev, then those attending next week's concerts in Jerusalem are in for a very rewarding experience.

MTV to make teenage movies

Launching a Hollywood unit, MTV is now making no fewer than five feature films. Following the popular 1996 animated release *Beavis and Butthead Do America*, the TV network's movie division will introduce its first live-action film this summer.

Dead Man on Campus is a sometimes raunchy black comedy about suicide and college capers starring Tom Everett Scott and Mark-Paul Gosselaar, two relative unknowns.

The film will test MTV's ability to move from television to cinema, where stakes are higher and customers far more unpredictable.

After shaping pop culture and rearing a generation of couch potatoes through the 1980s, MTV is reaching beyond its music video foundation.

While not ruling out documentaries, musicals and concert films, the first push from MTV Films will be broad comedies, most aimed at teenagers or young adults who think like teenagers.

Election, due in October, follows a high school student council candidate (Reese Witherspoon) thwarted by a calculating teacher (Matthew Broderick). Other projects in the works include *Varsity Blues*, a Jon Voight comedy about high school football; *The Wood*, a coming-of-age comedy set in the Los Angeles central city of Inglewood; and *200 Cigarettes*, a comedy that covers a four-hour span on New Year's Eve 1981.

There are also plans for a *Beavis and Butt-head* sequel.

"Having MTV attached to the movies predisposes the audience to have an interest in seeing it," says Van Toffler, president of MTV Productions.

"But the movie better be good, too." (AP)

NEWS

of the muse

The British are coming

Britannia is strutting her stuff at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center and the Tel Aviv Museum for British Week starting on Sunday which includes free screenings of movies at the museum fresh from the cutting edge of UK cinema. *House of America* from director Mark Evans is a surrealist, savage and funny movie about three kids in an impoverished Welsh mining town who dream of visiting their father in America, and their mad mother, who'll do almost anything to keep them from going. A love triangle among a country girl, a wealthy landowner's daughter and a woodsman are at the heart of Paul Egland's *The Woodlanders*. *Regeneration* is set in a military hospital during World War I and stars Jonathan Pryce as a doctor whose own sanity is tottering from the intense contact with his war-shattered patients. It also tells the story of poets Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen, whose work defined that generation.

Also being shown are the best of British short films, as well as live entertainment by the Hiss and Boo Company in a medley of songs from British and other musicals. British Week is sponsored by the British Council among others. *Helen Kaye*

Dancing to a throw of the dice

In the midst of the controversy of the non-appearance of the Batsheva Dance Co. at the Independence Day Jubilee Bells event, the company has been rehearsing two new works by visiting choreographers Tero Saarinen from Finland and Slovenia's Iztok Kovac. Rolls of the dice are the basis of Kovac's *Mo-ten-tion*, a dance built to the composition of that name by compatriot composer Uros Rojkko. Kovac, who won the International Dance Competition here in 1996, likes to throw obstacles at his dancers to provoke them into creating new movement patterns. He did that for *Mo-ten-tion* and then threw the dice to determine the order of those patterns in the dance. "Throwing dice lets fate put in a word," he says, "but I reserve the right to have the final say."

Tero Saarinen, who's also a magnificent and lyrical dancer, first worked locally with Rina Schenfeld, but since that time a decade ago, he's choreographed a few dances for Batsheva, including *Flock* three years ago. This new work, *Collector*, "touches on the absurdities of human acquisitiveness," says the choreographer. It all happens at the Suzanne Dellal Dance Center from May 14 – 19. *Helen Kaye*

Your chance to talk to William Forsythe

The world-famous Frankfurt Ballet is coming here for five performances starting June 15. Frankfurt's artisitic director, choreographer William Forsythe isn't coming but local fans can talk to him. On Monday, May 11 you can call Forsythe for a chat at 49-69-212-37179 (don't forget to dial the prefix of whatever international company you're using) between 4:30 – 6:30 local time. Frankfurt will dance an evening of Forsythe's repertory works, including *Firstext*, *Of Any If And* and *Hypothetical Stream*. Frankfurt Ballet should have come in February but the scare of possible war with Iraq kept them away. *Helen Kaye*

The 'Barefoot Diva'

Cesaria Evora, the luscious-voiced singer from the Cape Verde Islands, won hearts and fans when she first sang at Ashkelon's Briza Festival three years ago. Since then, Hed Artzi Records has issued four of her discs, which have been snapped up. Evora sings in her native Creole, soulful ballads that recall the Portuguese fado. She sings of lovers abandoned, of homesickness, but also joyful up-tempo ditties that speak of carnival and fun. Born in Mindelo, the capital of Sao Vicente island, Evora started singing barefoot in the bars of her native city. She was 47 before she cut her first disc in Paris, and today she's an international star, but she still sings barefoot, earning her the nickname "the barefoot diva." She'll perform from May 21 – 23 at Kibbutz Mitzpe Shalem, Beit Gabriel on the Kinneret and at Caesarea's Roman Theater. *Helen Kaye*

Theatrical philanthropy

Thanks to the Aya Azrielant Foundation, kids from development towns and other peripheral areas can come to the city for a day of fun and theater. Last week the foundation and the Cameri Theater teamed up to bring 50 children, including Ethiopian and Russian immigrants from border settlements in the northern Galilee and from the Negev, for "a day of independence" in Tel Aviv. The kids toured Ben-Gurion House, the Rabin memorial, and were taken backstage at the Cameri. Then they had lunch and went to a performance of *The Actor*. *Helen Kaye*

Jimmy Stewart's star dedicated

Some 10 months after his death, Jimmy Stewart's children were on hand as the actor's Hollywood Walk of Fame star was dedicated at the famous corner of Hollywood and Vine.

Kelly Stewart Harcourt and Michael McLean were recently presented with replicas of their father's sidewalk star, which was one of the original 1,500 stars on the Walk of Fame and was never formally dedicated. (AP)

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Unfinished business

If weight equaled influence, the hefty annual State Comptroller's Report would have a tremendous impact. Unfortunately, however, the greatest scandal in Miriam Ben-Porat's tenth and last 1,000-page tome is the fact that scores of previous criticisms have been ignored.

Almost every section cites recommendations from previous reports that have not been implemented, leading one to wonder whether government bureaucrats believe Ben-Porat was engaged in this exercise for her health.

In section after section – on political appointments, the tracking of IDF deferments, monitoring foreign workers, produce smuggled in from the Palestinian Authority, and Religious Affairs Ministry funding of yeshivot, just to name a few – this year's report noted that previous reports had been ignored.

As always, given the ongoing tensions between religious and secular, the sections relating to the haredim have gotten much attention.

Though press reports concerning phantom yeshiva students foreshadowed Ben-Porat's investigation of yeshiva funding, confirmation of the problem is no less shocking.

In August 1997 the comptroller investigated 1,150 students whose ID numbers were suspicious, and found that 400 were registered under non-existent ID numbers, and 42 registered "yeshiva students" who didn't exist or were non-Jews.

The findings regarding yeshivot were similar to those of the 1994 report. But according to Ben-Porat, the Religious Affairs Ministry has ignored the recommendation to take legal action against yeshivot that submit falsified documents that increase their government allocations.

Aside from the legal implications of such behavior, it is hard to imagine how such institutions can remain qualified to teach Judaism, given their cavalier approach to the Eighth Commandment. Stealing is stealing, even if the victim is an anonymous taxpayer.

Of course, fictitious yeshiva students are not the only or the largest illegitimate drain on the government's coffers. The Egged cooperative, which recently claimed to be receiving no government funding aside from subsidies to cover reduced-price tickets, was found by the comptroller to have been promised a whopping NIS 2.75 billion in government funds to pad the way for the company to go public.

The report scored Egged for failing over the years to provide proper balance sheets to the government, despite its promise to do so under a 1989 recovery plan, making it impossible to determine the cause of the debt that the government was covering. Most importantly, the comptroller called for the government bailout plan to be linked to opening bus transportation to competition, which is the key to improving service, efficiency, and lowering prices to the consumer.

Egged's inefficiencies are not the only problem on the roads. The report criticizes the fact that the budget for the Department of Public Works had been cut and that many regulations concerning road signs and safety measures were not being implemented.

DPW work projects were found to be inadequately marked and therefore a danger to drivers. While sloppiness is always disconcerting, when it comes to the nation's roads it can cost lives, as well as contribute to the general cavalier attitude toward road safety.

Security is also a matter of life and death, and so the comptroller's contention that the Green Line is a sieve that terrorists and criminals can easily cross is certainly a troublesome one. The report criticizes the IDF for not implementing most of the elaborate plans to make the de facto border with the Palestinians less porous.

Here there may be no straightforward solutions, since it is impossible to close a border that does not formally exist – and even final, well-defended borders are not impermeable.

The fact, however, that the establishment of a fenced and guarded border awaits a final-status agreement with the Palestinians does not mean there is nothing the IDF can do to improve the situation now.

It is natural that in this, the last of 10 reports during Ben-Porat's two terms as comptroller – a term that from now is rightly being limited to one, seven-year stint – that there would be many references to unfinished business from previous reports. It is also in keeping with Ben-Porat's persistent nature, and her desire to force the bureaucracy to change.

Ben-Porat has raised the profile of the State Comptroller's Office to a higher level, a level that her successor should maintain, although not at the expense of self-seeking publicity.

Ben-Porat has at times been controversial, and has been accused of too actively seeking media attention. But in the end, the country is better served by a comptroller that does not shy away from frank criticism, than one who becomes too close to the bureaucracies he or she is investigating.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SHOAH FOUNDATION

Sir, – In fairness to the 42,000 Holocaust survivors who have given testimony and the thousands of interviewers, volunteers, and staff around the world, it is imperative that some errors in Marc Fisher's story, "Respecting the facts vs. the desire to glitz it up" (April 22) be noted.

1. The Foundation has never had quotas for interviews. Speed is required to capture the survivors' testimony while they are still alive.

2. Interviews have never been restricted to two hours. They average two hours; the longest has been 17 hours (recorded over nine days).

3. The Foundation has always been committed to the quality of the interviews. During their tenure, June Beallor and James Moll established the Quality Assurance Department for ongoing education, assessment and support of interviewers.

4. Fact-checking is an integral part of interviewers' preparation as well as the cataloguing process.

5. Advice of academic experts was sought and, as practicable, implemented by Beallor and Moll from the very beginning.

6. Mr. Fisher claims that the Foundation's material will not be available at repositories any time soon. Our material is already at two off-site repositories, with the other three following shortly.

Tapes from the Shoah Foundation Archive are an integral part of the permanent exhibition at New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage.

7. This non-profit Foundation was not established to "sell its products" in a raw commercial fashion. Any proceeds from ancillary projects produced by the Foundation are directed back to the Foundation for the enhancement of its educational mission.

The security of the interviews has always been of paramount concern. The testimonies will not be available on the Internet.

8. The confidentiality of the survivors has never been compromised, as stated in the article.

9. The reporter failed to accurately report numbers from a staff list with academic credentials given to him by the Foundation when he visited.

10. The reporter does not even get the name of the Foundation correct. There is no "Spielberg's Shoah Visual History Foundation."

The organization is called Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation precisely because Steven Spielberg felt that the Foundation was not about him and did not belong to him. Rather, it is about the survivors. It belongs to them.

Despite the negative implications in the article, the establishment and growth of the Shoah Foundation occurred under the able leadership of June Beallor and James Moll.

Finally, the measure of the success of an interview is not "survivor's tears."

The Foundation measures success in many ways, including the depth and diversity of the archive, its representativeness of the entire survivor population, the quality of the interviews, and the nature of the historical information elicited.

And above all, the fact that Holocaust survivors and witnesses are able to tell their stories in their own words, and that this and future generations will be able to see them and to hear them.

The Foundation's commitment to the survivors has guided its entire mission, and this is our most sacred and most honored commitment.

MICHAEL BERENBAUM
President, Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation

Los Angeles.

ABSURD CLAIM

Sir - There were some things missing from *Jubilee Bells*. For instance, not one mention of Ron Arad, Jonathan Pollard and the other missing soldiers. For instance, not a single soldier was wearing a kippa.

For instance, the song and dance about the Declaration of Independence deliberately skipped the words "Jewish State."

But, like many others, I did not feel I missed out on seeing people dance in their underwear. Too bad that Batsheva passed up a chance to show their wares to those like myself who would not ordinarily pay to see them.

I respect the troupe's decision to withdraw for what they consider immutable principle. I doubt the sense of Shulamit Aloni's observation that it marks the end of Israeli culture. I respect Rafael Eitan's decision to leave.

But I object most strongly to those who would have had all the performers walk out. And I take issue with Ronni Milo's absurd claim that everyone who came to hear the Philharmonic in the Park did so in support of Ohad Naharin & Co.

ISRAEL PICKHOLTZ

Elazar.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

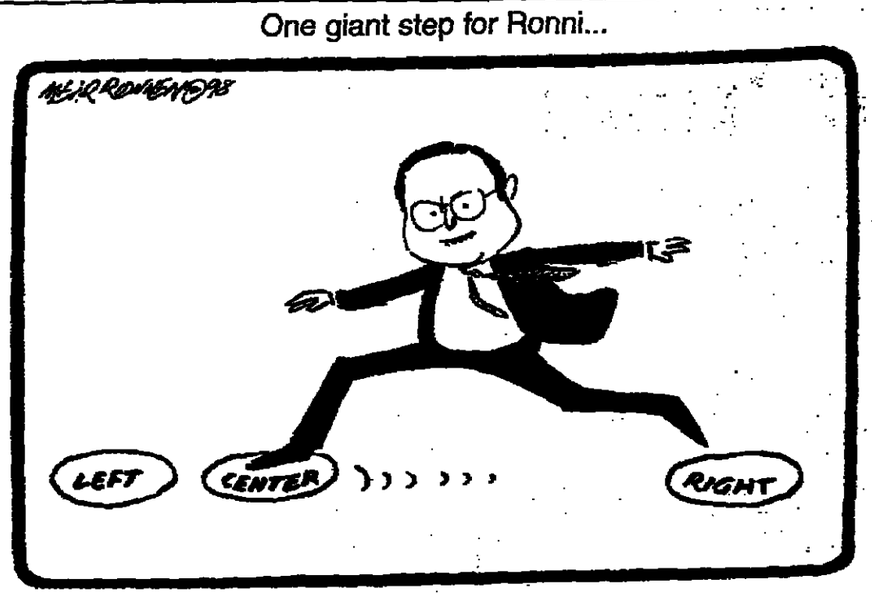
50 years ago: On May 6, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that according to official figures the number of casualties reported to the Police Headquarters between November 30, 1947, and April 30, 1948, totalled 2,378 dead (1,047 Jews) and 5,063 injured (2,032 Jews).

The three-man Consular Truce Commission which intended to discuss a truce for Jerusalem with Arab representatives in Jericho returned "empty-handed" while the fierce fighting continued and the Arabs again infiltrated the Sheikh Jarrah area, which was cleared by Hagana, but was again taken away from Jewish control by the British Army contingent.

25 years ago: On May 6, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported the statement made by prime minister Golda Meir in her Independence Day TV interview, that she had sought to contact Egyptian president Sadat, but that Cairo had not responded.

Alexander Zvielli

One giant step for Ronni...



Spring in the IDF

STUART A. COHEN

During the past few weeks, public interest in the IDF has tended to concentrate on the tussle between Shaul Mofaz and Matan Vilna'i over who will become the next chief of staff.

By comparison, very little attention has been paid to the processes of change now under way in the very structure of the organization which both men seek to command.

That situation was to some degree rectified just before Independence Day, with the appearance of the latest issue of *Ma'archot*. This journal, which first began to appear as early as 1939 and is widely considered to be the most informative and authoritative of all IDF publications, provides insights into senior military thinking on Israeli security concerns.

The current issue continues that tradition. Billed as a "special publication," it is devoted entirely to *Aviv Neurim* (perhaps best translated as "spring youth"), the code-name assigned to the program of managerial and organizational reforms presently being promoted by the IDF General Staff.

True, this is a subject likely to provoke yawns of boredom amongst those devotees of military affairs who fondly imagine that warfare is entirely a matter of drums, trumpets, blood and guts. But anyone with a more balanced awareness of the factors which have throughout history decided confrontations between armed forces will readily appreciate that organizational factors can in fact make all the difference between military success and military failure.

How armed forces are organized (in peace as well as in war), and the manner in which they husband and deploy the resources at their disposal, have long been recognized to be crucial elements of strategy. This is especially true today, when the speed, range, complexity and expense of both weapons systems and communications networks increase the burdens of generalship at all levels of command.

Under present circumstances, no military force in the world can afford to ignore potential for organizational improvement. A trim and healthy structure of management constitutes an essential prerequisite to proficiency in both training and battle. Given its inherent dependence on qualitative superiority in order to compensate for quantitative inferiority, the IDF must be especially sensitive to such considerations. The devotion of an entire issue of *Ma'archot* to this topic constitutes due recognition of that fact.

WHAT then, is Aviv Neurim designed to accomplish? No less, we are informed, than a revolution in our military's entire "organizational culture." The IDF will attempt to cut down on the waste in both human and material resources which currently results from its over-dependance on a highly centralized, flabby and rigidly hierarchical structure.

Much of Israel's security may depend on the speed and efficiency with which 'Aviv Neurim' is brought to fruition

Stripped to its bare essentials, the program proposed by *Aviv Neurim* is deceptively simple. The idea is to adopt a pattern of "dispersed" management which organizational theory experts claim has been highly effective in both profit and non-profit conglomerates in other spheres, both in Israel and abroad.

In the area of military affairs, this can be translated into the devolution of responsibility down through the hierarchy. Today, virtually every managerial decision about the allocation of manpower, services or commodities within individual IDF units has to go up and down the entire chain of command, generating reams of paperwork and consuming numerous hours.

Why not, instead, give unit commanders (particularly at the divisional level) much greater autonomy by allocating them a fixed budget which – within certain clearly defined limits – they can customize to their own needs?

By freeing General Staff officers from their present need to deal with the day-to-day details of military micro-management, the new system will allow them more time to focus on their true function – planning and thinking ahead.

Aviv Neurim's visionaries (a group which includes both Mofaz and Vilna'i) are explicit about the boundaries of their program.

In operational matters, the IDF will retain its pyramid-like structure. But where recruitment, training and logistics are concerned, it will become a much "flatter" military organization than it is today.

As such, it will also be a more effective force. It will have cut military red tape, encouraged individual command initiative, increased sensitivity at all levels of authority to the dangers inherent in the misuse of limited resources and – above all – introduced the collective Israeli military mind to an entirely new way of thinking about itself and its environment.

All of this will not happen overnight. After all, the IDF – like other militaries the world over – is an inherently conservative institution, and can therefore hardly be expected to welcome drastic changes in its traditional modes of behavior and thinking.

If "managerial decentralization" is to be anything more than a slogan, two requirements have to be fulfilled.

First, the aims of the program have to be clearly communicated to the personnel of all ranks who will be responsible for its implementation.

Second, some practical measures of reform have to be outlined.

The implementation of *Aviv Neurim* will undoubtedly be high on the agenda of our next chief of staff – whoever it will be. We must all wish him success in that task. Much of Israel's security may depend on the speed and efficiency with which the program is brought to fruition.

A year in politics

DAVID NEWMAN

A day is a long time in politics. A year, or two as Ronni Milo is likely to find out, is an eternity. In Britain this week, it was announced that over 70% of the British public are satisfied with Tony Blair's first year in government. No incumbent prime minister since World War II has had such high popularity figures.

Compare this to the situation of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu after his first year in power. Having made some serious blunders, most notably the Bar-On Affair, his popularity had sunk to an all-time low.

He was in a precarious situation with a very real possibility that some of his coalition partners would turn against him and remove him from office. Now, another year down the road, the tables have turned once again.

Were there to be elections tomorrow, there is every likelihood that Netanyahu would return to power with an increased majority. He has strengthened his grip on his own coalition, with all his potential rivals – Dan Meridor, Benny Begin and David Levy – having left the government without causing any serious long-term repercussions.

They have been replaced with party faithful, such as Yehoshua Matza and Tzahi Hanegbi, or close personal allies, such as Natan Sharansky, none of whom would consider any anti-Netanyahu action.

Indeed, it is partly as a result of his neutralization of powerful figures, that charismatic politicians such as Ronni Milo have now left the party. But Milo's decision to enter the fray at this early stage may yet backfire, as Netanyahu will use all his media skills to display the new candidate as being no more than a Labor Party clone.

THE fiftieth year celebrations have done him no harm either. The differences of opinion concerning what should, or should not, be part of the celebrations will soon be forgotten. But Prime Minister Netanyahu has been able to bask in the limelight – both at home and abroad – of being the Israeli prime minister who has taken the country into its fiftieth anniversary.

The world may be increasingly critical of Netanyahu's intransigent stance on the peace process, but this has not served to dampen their praise and support for the country, with Netanyahu as the central figure, on the occasion of the jubilee celebrations.

His position hasn't been harmed either by Labor's ineffective opposition. While many expected a fighting opposition to emerge following the elections for a new leader last year, it has become even less effective than under Shimon Peres, maintaining a strange silence. Ehud Barak, meanwhile, has gone from one poor showing to another.

In this respect, Netanyahu and Blair have had similar experiences. Since their defeat, the British Conservative Party has also been totally ineffective in opposing the policies of the new government. But while, in Britain, this can partially be explained by the fact that the Labor Party enjoys a massive parliamentary majority, this is not the case in Israel.

The coalition majority remains marginal, while the number of discontented coalition partners – such as the Third Way Party or Gesher faction – who could be persuaded to change colours, see little to be gained in backing the Labor at present.

Even if, as expected, Netanyahu achieves little in London other than taking his travelling circus to Washington next week, this will hardly affect his growing popularity back home.

And despite the growing unemployment which has been brought on by the economic policies of Netanyahu and his economic gurus, Jacob Frenkel and Yaakov Neeman, those most affected will continue to prefer him over his Labor rival. They are likely to vote for him as prime minister and for Shas as their party.

Recent survey material shows categorically that, despite the occasional pro-peace utterance of Shas leaders Aryeh Deri or Ovadiah Yoseph, Israel's growing economic and ethnic underclass continues to support Netanyahu's hard-line stance on further negotiations with the Palestinians.

Thus, even if they don't vote Likud, they will continue to give their support to the incumbent prime minister. And their party will always favor a coalition agreement with the Likud rather than Labor.

Of course, a year is a long time in politics. Between now and the next elections, whenever they may be, a lot can happen to change, yet again, Netanyahu's standing. For one thing, the entrance of Milo as a new candidate of the center may prove to be a factor which, in the long term, will take important votes away from Netanyahu.

But as things look at the moment, he has moved beyond his period of government mismanagement and appears to have the reigns of government strongly under control. Given his strong appetite to retain power at all cost, he will lose little time in castigating Milo for having left the Likud and having transferred his ideological allegiances to those of Barak and the Labor Party.

Netanyahu is not a person to be tangled with lightly. Ronni Milo may yet find this out to his cost.

Facing the press

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR.

One of Bill Clinton's problems when he faces 300-odd reporters is the context in which he speaks. He tells us repeatedly that he must continue to be out there looking after the American people's business, which he has always done, notwithstanding "seven years" of persecution.

At the end of the session, reporters present in the room can't be blamed for brooding on the salient datum. This was the first presidential press conference in the year – that's four months without a press conference. Why? Well, why do you think? And the president knows that the reporters know why, and the reporters know that the president knows that the reporters know why – and round and round we go.

The people out there asking the questions quite naturally react with some amusement to the allegation that they are motivated by a desire to hang Bill Clinton.

But it is true that almost one-half of the press conference was devoted to questions that had to do with the president's personal behavior and the implications of that personal behavior.

The press and its constituencies, on that rare day when its members find themselves in direct contact with the president in a forum that presumes questions and answers, are quite naturally more inclined to ask about Lewinsky's tapes than about Israel's 50th birthday.

For all his legendary facility, Clinton can't pull away from his inclination to impugn the motives of people who do or say vexatious things. The press – if you string together his statements over the past months – are an instrument of the vast right-wing conspiracy.

Last week, Clinton added a flip to Mrs. Clinton's right-wing conspiracy thesis. "It's obvious, I think, to the American people that this has been a hard, well-financed, vigorous effort over a long period of time by people who could not contest the ideas that I brought to the table. Couldn't even contest the values behind the ideas that I brought to the table."

Clinton seems to be saying that if you do not believe in an increase in the minimum wage (to use a symbol of Clinton's programs), what you do is take out your frustration over your inability to make your point, or to contest the motives of those who want that increase, by stoking the Lewinsky ovens and going after Clinton's sex life.

If you reduce that explanation to its necessary parts, Clinton is telling us – in effect – that Milton Friedman's opposition to a rise in the minimum wage expresses itself in impugning the president's private life.

SO then what – in Clinton's analysis – are his critics ultimately engaged in? He has this down to a nice facile wordplay, which he used twice. The distinction he urges on us is between his "reputation" and his "character." His critics, Clinton acknowledges, can affect his reputation. But they cannot affect his character.

Now manifestly Clinton's reputation has been affected by the expressions of his critics, using material that floats in from Arkansas land plays, Little Rock hotels, White House suicides and recorded conversations between executive staffers.

Sixty-five percent of Americans believe Clinton has withheld the truth and shown other than the moral bearing they'd have wanted in a president.

But, Clinton tells us, this derogation has had no effect on his character and will not have any effect on his character. This is a variation on the sticks-and-stones-will-break-my-bones antithesis. But it doesn't really help Clinton, in the eyes – to use his phrase – of those who are "modestly observant."

The trouble here is with the model Clinton attempts to invoke. It is, to reach for one historical figure, the model of the maiden who resisted to the death the assault on her virginity.

But St. Agnes is not what comes to mind when Clinton's name comes up. It is, rather, the Sad Sack, the legendary soldier who never learned and kept bumping into reality.

It would have been exhilarating if the president had said that such was his faith in the American people he believed us capable even of affecting his character.

But he'd have interrupted himself to say that on that subject, he has no comment: David Kendall is in charge of that line of questioning.

(Universal Press Syndicate)

A bit of 'magic' to nip aggression in the bud



By Ruth Mason

We've been hearing news reports lately of Israeli children being among the most aggressive in the world.

Playground fights are common here. And it's not unheard of for a child to be hospitalized – even operated on – as a result of a kick in the stomach during recess.

What can we do about it?

Renee Herzberg, M.A., a school psychologist, has one answer: Start early, and use a bit of magic.

Herzberg and other school psychologists are implementing The Magic Circle, an American program authored by Yuvaldo Palomares and Geraldine Ball.

They run the program in nursery schools, kindergartens and the lower elementary school grades (it can be used up to age 12) when teachers ask for help in combating aggression and other problem behaviors such as children not sitting still or listening, bothering other children, and invading each other's personal space.

"They're not just asking for a diagnosis and counseling for one or two kids," Herzberg says. "There is something broader, more environmental going on – a phenomenon of aggression that should be nipped in the bud. For the past several years, we've seen a trend of more problematic behavior in schools. Teachers have more discipline problems than they used to, even in the earliest years."

Experts agree that the earlier one addresses these problems, the better. Herzberg runs her program for four-year-olds.

Many pre-school programs focus on cognitive skills such as pre-math and pre-writing. But Herzberg claims that not enough attention is given in the early years to the crucial areas of social and emotional skills.

This is where the Magic Circle comes in.

A psychologist runs the program in heterogeneous groups of six to eight children. It should really happen once a week for 36 weeks, but because of funding problems it has been reduced to 18 weeks here.

The children, the psychologist and the teacher sit in a circle, in the middle of which is a decorated disc with "magic" rules both written and drawn in circles on the disc:

Listen while your friend is talking. No interrupting. No insulting. You can't leave in the middle of the Magic Circle. Keep to the subject. If you don't want to talk, you can skip a turn.

Internalizing these rules is as important a component of the program as the actual content.

"If I see a problem, I remind the children which rule is being broken by pointing to it, rather than addressing a particular child," says Herzberg.

"Eventually, the kids remind each other of the rules if someone breaks them. And they generalize them to fit other situations in school."

The program aims to develop self-awareness, self-control, self-confidence and social skills.

In the self-awareness unit, Herzberg introduces one emotion per circle. She might start with happiness and tell a true story about how happy she was when someone made her a surprise birthday party; or a story about a child who felt happy when his parents took him to a movie.

When she finishes, she asks the children to sit quietly for a full minute (practice in self-control), think about what they heard, and get their own story ready. Then they take turns telling about a time when they felt happy. In the ensuing weeks they go through the same routine with sadness, anger, empathy, fear and other emotions.

"We teach children how to identify their feelings, so they can say, 'Now I feel angry,' instead of picking up a rock and throwing it," says Herzberg.

The teacher is not allowed to criticize a child during Magic Circle time.

"Sometimes teachers will stigmatize or categorize a child. Here they have to listen and tell a story just like the children do. Usually they're so busy they can't take the time to really listen to children in small groups. This experience gives them an opportunity to tune in to the kids. They often discover things they didn't know."

For example, once children start getting more in touch with their feelings, they might start talking about their nightmares.



Two boys stage a violent encounter: Can children learn to express anger in a more constructive way? (Sarit Uziely)

Other circles deal with self-control. Herzberg tells of times she was able to control herself and times she wasn't, giving the kids license to do the same. And the children follow suit: "I knew the answer but I didn't call it out." Or "My mother was talking on the phone and I couldn't hold myself back and I bothered her."

"I don't want them to feel they have to be perfect," Herzberg says. "I want them to have a place where they can be aware of their failures and successes. If a child gets in touch with times he was able to use self-control, he gets positive feedback and he feels good about himself. Self-esteem is one by-product of self-control."

In the circles on social relations, Herzberg might tell of a time when her neighbor was moving, "and I baked him a cake because I knew he didn't have anything to eat." A child might say, "My best friend was playing alone and I invited him to come and play with us because I saw that he was sad." Or "My mother asked me to help set the table, and I didn't."

After a child tells a story, Herzberg asks for a volunteer to repeat it. This encourages the children to pay close attention and attunes their listening skills.

There is no instruction given on how to be nice, considerate, or thoughtful. The children internalize these values through the rules and through the stories they hear.

Parents of young children can try incorporating some of these techniques at home.

If your feel your child's classroom might benefit from this program, encourage the teacher to contact your municipality's school psychological services (*sherut ha'psicologi*).

Turning the key in wedlock

With the US divorce rate soaring, a group in California is lobbying to make divorce harder to get, writes Jenifer Warren

Michael Bowman's parents divorced when he was six. After that, time with Dad was limited to Saturdays and special occasions. His folks, once so happy together, scarcely spoke for 19 years. Bowman turned out fine – graduating from college, marrying and landing a good job — but he believes he's one of the lucky few.

Divorce, he contends, is devastating for children, shattering their sense of security and leaving a legacy of trauma that can stain an entire life.

Today Bowman is director of a conservative lobbying group in Sacramento, and one of his priorities is to make divorce harder to get.

From his office two blocks east of the state Capitol, he is engineering a drive to abolish the law that allows married Californians to call it quits at a moment's notice, even when one spouse objects.

"The current system promotes irresponsibility — it lets you walk away from your marriage too easily," said Bowman, 33, a wiry, energetic UCLA graduate and father of two. "There is no justice in our divorce laws, not for children or for the spouse who wants to keep the marriage going."

Bowman's effort is part of an expanding national movement that aims to do away with no-fault divorce.

The campaign has been led most vocally by conservative Christians, who say the modern divorce "experiment" — laws that allow couples to split up unilaterally and divide their assets in half — has been a flop.

To advance their cause, they cite a growing body of research that links fractured families with numerous social woes.

Experts predict that one in two American marriages will end in divorce; each year, 1 million children watch as their parents part. Studies show that a higher percentage of youngsters from broken homes do poorly in school, suffer relationship problems, have babies out of wedlock and get in trouble with the law.

But some sociologists say such consequences have been hyped by those seeking to enforce a traditional, moralistic view of marriage and home life. The majority of children from divorced families, they say, do not suffer long-term harm.

Moreover, critics argue, a return to the old divorce laws — in which one spouse had to prove adultery, mental cruelty or some other form of "fault" to get out — would do little for children, while intensifying the hostilities that often surround divorce.

"All we do by making divorce more difficult is to keep couples — and their children — stuck in misery," said University of Southern California sociologist Constance Ahrons, co-chair of the national Council on Contemporary Families. "It's not divorce that's inherently bad, it's how the parents handle it."

As with so many other social trends, California was a pioneer in no-fault divorce. And it was a Republican — former Gov. Ronald Reagan, himself once divorced — who did away with the old regime, which required suing spouses to prove that their mates were to blame for marital breakdown.

Assigning such blame often led to lies and lurid accusations in court, persuading participants and experts alike that fault-based divorce was a sham.

In 1969, Reagan took the state in a new direction, signing a law that allows one spouse to exit the marriage simply by citing "irreconcilable differences." California's leap into the world of no-fault divorce was quickly copied.

By 1974, 45 states had some form of no-fault law; by 1985, the rest were on board.

The current campaign to revamp divorce laws got its start in the Midwest, where legislators in Michigan and Iowa have sought to create a two-tier divorce system that would prohibit no-fault dissolutions in cases in which one spouse contests the split or minor children are involved. Those efforts have stalled, but they ignited interest in Illinois, Virginia, Washington, Georgia and a handful of other states.

So far, none of the broad-scale overhauls has succeeded; more modest reform attempts have fared better.

Several states — Iowa, for example — now require parents to take classes on how to protect their children from the pain of divorce. Others are tinkering with extended pre-divorce waiting periods, mandatory counseling and other steps forcing couples to pause and reflect before giving up.

And a newer wave of legislation takes a different tack, approaching the issue from the front end by creating an optional type of marriage contract that makes parting harder. Couples who choose a so-called covenant marriage agree to tougher nuptial conditions: pre-marital counseling, pre-divorce counseling and a mandatory two-year waiting period before a divorce is granted.

Experts predict that one in two American marriages will end in divorce; each year, 1 million children watch as their parents part

Louisiana passed the nation's first covenant marriage law last year.

Bowman believes that approach is wrongheaded, arguing that it cheapens the institution of marriage by offering a real and a "lite" version. The problem is not the seriousness of the wedding vow, he says, but the ease with which it can be broken in court.

Bowman wants to create three divorce options in California. The first, and most preferable to him, would be divorce by mutual consent. If one spouse objects, the other would have to use persuasion — or financial incentives in the form of child support or assets — to purchase a ticket out of the marriage.

If that approach fails, one spouse could attempt to prove fault as divorcing couples did in the old days.

Under the third option, a spouse could dissolve the marriage unilaterally — but only after a two-year waiting period during which the couple shared the same home.

Bowman's work on divorce stems from his position as director of the lobbying group Capitol Resource Institute. Founded and largely funded by conservative Republican state Sen. Rob Hurtt and wealthy Christian political donor Howard Ahmanson, the group is dedicated to "the principles of traditional families" and tracks legislation on a host of social issues, from abortion to gay rights.

Although it is hard to find anyone who is happy about the nation's high divorce rate, Americans generally oppose efforts by government to make it tougher to split up, polls show.

Critics accuse the reformers of trying to lock people in unhappy marriages for the sake of a traditional nuclear family. John Burton, Democratic leader of the California state Senate, said "forcing people to stay together when they're miserable can create a lot of resentment," exposing participants to violence and other forms of abuse.

Veteran Los Angeles divorce lawyer Ira Lurvey says the notion that you can force people to work out their problems — especially in a society addicted to instant gratification — is foolhardy.

"We didn't force people to stop smoking and eat healthier — we began encouraging people that it's in their best interest to do so," Lurvey said. "So perhaps if we encourage people that a positive marriage is in their interest — and teach them how to get that — we'll be better off."

That said, Lurvey believes that the painful consequences of divorce demand that something be done. The unanswered question, he said, is "What is that something?"

Lurvey believes that part of the solution is coming to a better understanding of what marriage means today. Toward that end, he serves on a national task force seeking to create an institute to fund nonpartisan research on marriage and divorce. But Bowman says the facts are already in, that no more studies are needed.

"Divorce is destroying families, making vagabonds out of our kids," he said. "I don't want to prohibit divorce, but I think it should be a lot more difficult to get."

(Los Angeles Times)

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ABSORPTION MINISTRY

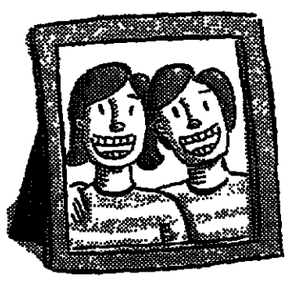
Violations are all in the family

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Absorption Ministry Director-General Shlomit Canaan shared more than parents with one of her co-workers, the comptroller found.

In addition, she and her brother met regularly about ministry matters, and he sent her regular messages about office business, in express violation of the terms set by the government for her appointment.

When told of the infraction, the director-general confirmed that she had indeed violated the terms of her appointment, but said that the work relationship between them had "only advanced the matter of absorption and helping immigrants."



The comptroller was angered that Canaan "viewed the violation of administrative procedures as a purely technical matter." Canaan was appointed in June 1997.

While she was being considered for the post in May it was decided to create a chain of command that would "keep her apart from her brother."

Her brother, who served as a division head, had been involved in helping convince Ethiopian immigrants to leave caravan sites.

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein told government officials at the time of her appointment that the brother was needed in this job, and could not be transferred elsewhere.

However, it was found that by the time Canaan took over, he was no longer doing that job.

Shortly after her appointment, the comptroller began receiving numerous complaints from workers about a direct working relationship between her and her brother.

The workers said the issue damaged his relationship with his co-workers and the functioning of the ministry.

The comptroller also found that, after a ministry reorganization which should have had her brother reporting to the deputy director-general, he in fact continued to report directly to her.

In July 1997, he sent her a document in which he outlined ministry areas of responsibility and needs, which she later passed off as her own.

Her brother also used his family connection to improve his own work conditions, and to push his own projects while bypassing his superiors.

It was also found that in the latter months of 1997, he bypassed ministry district heads to set up meetings with people in their districts. No steps were taken to prevent him from doing so again.

The comptroller found it "serious that the director-general did not put her brother in his place even when she received many complaints against him."

Civil Service Commissioner Shmuel Hollander was contacted about the situation and in January 1998 wrote that "there is no way that she and her brother can continue to work at the ministry, and one of them will have to leave immediately."

He was then told by Canaan that her brother was leaving the ministry.

ABSORPTION MINISTRY

Allocations raise suspicion

By NINA GILBERT

Severe irregularities were found in the Absorption Ministry's procedures for disbursing funds to institutions.

The funds, disbursed to organizations to advance the absorption of immigrants, totaled some NIS 12 million in 1997. The probe was carried out between March and September 1997, and focused on the activities of the ministry's director-general, Shlomit Canaan, who acts as head of the funding committee.

In particular, the comptroller blasted Canaan for signing an approval to transfer funds to a non-profit organization less than a month after she resigned from its board.

By law, such resignations require at least 30 days notice, meaning that she was still technically a board member when she approved the funding for the group, a blatant conflict of interest.

The director-general had informed the comptroller that since her resignation in May 1997 from the group's board, she stopped taking part in funding meetings involving the organization. However, the comptroller found that she had taken part in such a meeting in August 1997. The comptroller slammed Canaan for lying to the investigators.

The comptroller also found that a protocol regarding the funding committee's consideration of this group's request was inaccurate, a violation of proper administrative procedures, the comptroller noted.

The comptroller also faulted the ministry for its generally poor preparation of protocols, which were often corrected in handwriting – including the funding amounts – without observing the rules for such corrections.

As a result, the information in the protocols was not reliable. Computerized reports on funding were also found to contain unreliable or incomplete information.

The comptroller had found that the ministry had failed to advertise the availability of the funding in at least two newspapers and failed to draw up separate budgets for issuing funds to local authorities and institutions.

Irregularities were also found in the funding registry, where amounts recorded were at times substantially lower than the amount actually approved by the ministry for a given organization.

"That the ministry published incorrect figures in the registry is especially grave," the comptroller wrote.

The ministry had also given several allotments to the same organizations, which were listed under different names or several names that had been altered slightly. "This gave the impression that the funding was given to different organizations," said the comptroller, who recommended that the registration number of the organizations be used in the registry instead of names.

The comptroller also faulted the ministry for failing to the coordinate funding for organizations with other government ministries, though she had warned that this must be done in last year's report. This is important to avoid "double-dipping" by organizations, the comptroller said.

By the end of the probe, several of the record-keeping deficiencies were being or had been corrected, the comptroller noted.

EDUCATION MINISTRY

Good intentions not enough to absorb Ethiopian pupils

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Despite good intentions and some visible progress made in recent years, the Education Ministry's efforts to fully integrate Ethiopian immigrant pupils into the nation's school system are still incomplete.

These problems, however, also reflect mistakes made by the government in not distributing the Ethiopian immigrants in more established communities, resulting in a concentration of them in areas with fewer educational opportunities.

The comptroller's office examined the 1996-97 school year, when some 16,700 Ethiopian pupils were studying, most of them in state-religious schools.

Attempts to prevent an overly large concentration of Ethiopian immigrant pupils in specific schools were less than successful, although the comptroller noted this was not necessarily the ministry's fault.

The immigrants usually settled where they could afford to buy homes and in proximity to family, creating concentrations of them, particularly in Beersheba, Ashdod, Afula, Hadera, Ramle, Kiryat Malachi, Kiryat Gat, Rehovot and Ashkelon.

Seven of these communities are on the lower end of the socioeconomic scale, and Religious Education Authority studies show that most of the Ethiopians have been absorbed in schools where the pupils' socioeconomic level is low.

"These schools invested a great deal of resources in advancing the veteran pupils, and the arrival of the Ethiopian newcomers created an additional burden on them, and worsened the educational and social problems in the schools," the study found.

Although the percentage of Ethiopian pupils should not exceed 25%, authority inspectors found that in 19 schools, they made up an average of 47% of the pupils. As a result, pupils from established families pulled their children from these schools.

Meanwhile, parents of Ethiopian pupils bused to other schools to avoid such heavy concentrations complained about the busing, particularly for younger children.

The study found particular problems regarding the assigning of Ethiopian pupils to special education programs. Many parents complained that their children were sent to special education facilities even though they were capable of studying in regular frameworks, if resources would be provided to help them to do so.

Family members also complained that they were not involved in the process which determined if the pupils would go to special education classes, or were not told they were assigned to them. As a result of the resulting distrust between the parents and ministry officials, community activists encouraged parents not to allow their children to be tested.

Parents complained that a higher percentage of Ethiopian pupils were in special education classes than in the general population, but ministry officials denied this, saying the opposite was true.

But the comptroller noted the ministry lacks updated data about the number of Ethiopian pupils in special education programs, making it difficult to tell who is right.

On a positive note, the report noted that between the 1994-95 school year and the 1996-97 school year, there was a sharp increase in the percentage of Ethiopian pupils in 12th grade who earned matriculation certificates, from 8% to 23%. However, this was still considerably less than the matriculation rate in the overall population, which by 96-97 was twice the Ethiopians' rate.

Pupils who were given special training courses for the matriculation exam did even better, showing that with proper preparation and encouragement, progress can be achieved.

EDUCATION MINISTRY

A system of haves and have-nots

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The system for allocating the Education Ministry budget has led to inequality in funding among the local authorities, leading to a situation whereby the quality of a child's education is significantly affected by where he lives.

Increasingly, it is the local authorities' ability to learn the loopholes in the budgeting system that determines its level of educational services.

A more equitable system for allocating funds for education must be found, the comptroller said, perhaps by expanding current experiments in self-administration already launched in some schools.

The study examined funding for education between April 1996 and September 1997 at nine local authorities: Kiryat Ata, Daburiya, the Beit She'an Valley, Even Yehuda, Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Bat Yam, Mevasseret Zion, Yavne and Kiryat Malachi.

During this period, the ministry gave local councils NIS 3.41 billion for education, money that was transferred under no less than 255 budget items, based on various considerations by ministry officials in the field.

Since these officials do not always coordinate, and because the budget is broken up into so many different sections, the amount received by the local authorities per pupil is not equal.

The study cited complaints by the Union of Local Authorities in Israel as early as 1991 that the Education and Labor and Social Welfare ministries were not providing enough for these services, forcing them into deficits.

An interministerial committee at the time found that local authorities were committing themselves financially to more than that what the ministry provided in educational services, because actual expenses were higher than ministry indices showed. This problem continues, the report says, and is one of the contributing factors to local deficits.

A check of allocations meant to be made according to specific criteria showed that the ministry did not always make sure this was properly done, the report found.

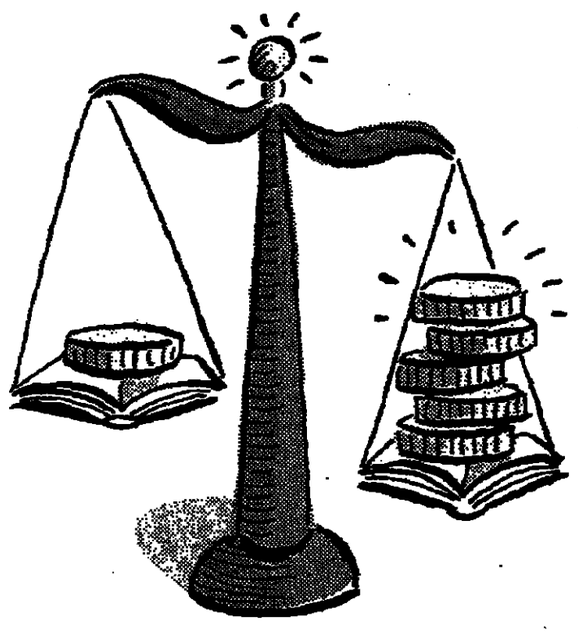
Instead, the amount transferred for items such as psychological services was often based simply on the previous year's allocations, hurting communities trying to "break into" the funding cycle.

Because of the lack of uniform criteria, some local authorities receive a great deal in funding for special educational services, while others get almost nothing.

The average last year was NIS 601 per pupil, the study found, but actually ranged from NIS 74 to NIS 3,638, with Arab and Druse communities making up 41 of the 50 communities receiving the lowest such allocations.

The study also looked at the amount spent by the local authorities on education.

It found that while the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipality was able and willing to invest tens of millions of shekels of its self-generated funds in strengthening its education and welfare programs, towns like Kiryat Ata and Daburiya can spend very little on improving education.



Thus, while the education system is the main vehicle for giving every child an equal chance to advance according to his or her abilities, the current situation makes a mockery of the principle of equal opportunity, she said.

The ministry responded that it was aware of the problem, and pointed to an experiment in self-administration currently going on in some schools, under which those schools get their budgets directly from all sources, based on a level of services determined by the Finance, Education, and Interior ministries and the ULAL.

The self-administration program has already been initiated in Jerusalem and is expected to also start in Tel Aviv and Haifa next year.

FOREIGN MINISTRY

Bonn embassy wasting money

By JAY BUSHINSKY

An examination of the manpower employed at the embassy in Bonn indicated that some of the posts filled by Foreign Ministry personnel could be filled by local hires at 75 percent less cost.

For the past few years, the ministry has also been funding emissaries there to fulfill assignments that are not on its behalf, but for the Histadrut.

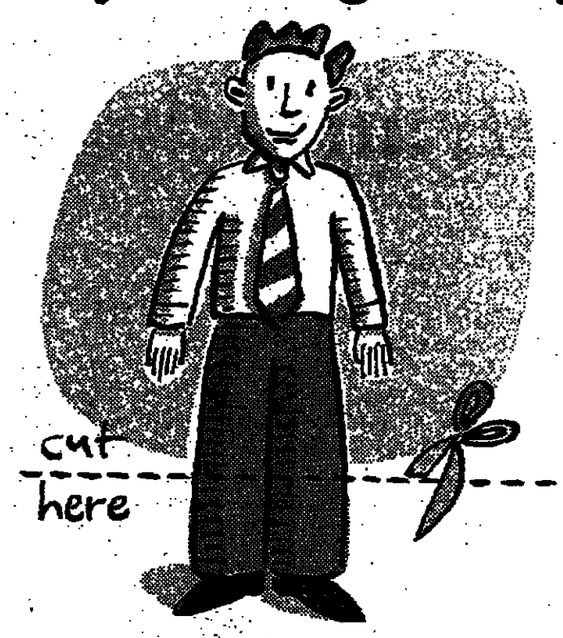
The comptroller said the work plans prepared by the Bonn embassy for 1997 do not serve as an operational tool, but were prepared simply to fulfill ministry requirements to draw up such plans.

Although disseminating information to German universities was defined as one of the most important objectives of the embassy's public relations work, only a small percentage of the trips taken by the information officer and embassy spokesman were to deliver lectures at universities.

In anticipation of the embassy's transfer to Berlin in 1999, the government will need a structure to serve as an embassy as well as the ambassador's official residence. The process of making the requisite arrangements has been faulty, and delay will likely lead to unnecessary expenditures.

In April 1997, a Mimouna celebration was held outside Foreign Minister David Levy's residence in Jerusalem.

For this purpose, an (unsalaried) adviser to the minister ordered 350 portions of food at $32 each from a local hotel; the order was approved by a fax sent to the hotel from the foreign minister's bureau. The total cost to the ministry was NIS 44,500.



The ministry's deputy director-general for administration said he learned about the food order after the fact.

An inquiry indicated that the bureau did not have a list of the persons who attended, to ascertain if any diplomats or ministry staffers were invited, which might have justified the ministry's participation.

An aide said the minister had asked that some ministry staffers and diplomats be invited and a few of the guests were called from the ministry, but "most of the work was done at the Gesher Party offices."

POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS

Adviser named without security check

By JAY BUSHINSKY

State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat has spent a great deal of her 10-year stint as comptroller battling appointments made for political reasons or without observing established procedures and regulations.

In this, her last report, Ben-Porat spent nearly 50 pages proving that such appointments continue, giving some two dozen examples.

During April and May 1997, the comptroller investigated the engagement of an unpaid adviser at the Prime Minister's Office.

In the adviser's personal file there is a letter of appointed dated September 9, 1996, in which the director-general names him as "Adviser to the Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office (on a volunteer basis).

There follows an unsigned, undated declaration by the person concerned, saying he would start working September 9, 1996.

The comptroller said that, although he was appointed in September 1996, only afterwards was there an inquiry into his qualifications and security clearance. The office's legal adviser gave his consent only four months after the appointment.



The security officer, in his investigation, unearthed problems, and orally advised the director-general not to employ this adviser, without knowing that he had already been appointed.

In response to an alert from the State Comptroller's Office, Civil Service Commissioner Shmuel Hollander demanded that the adviser be dismissed, and the Prime Minister's Office director-general complied.

In a letter that the director-general sent to the adviser, the director-general wrote: "The office has received information which requires thorough and profound examination and which may require reconsideration of your appointment...I request that you hand back to the office all the documents you received, including the entry pass."

The comptroller noted the gravity of hiring a person without making the requisite background checks, and having a person who did not pass a security check get an entry pass for offices to which access is limited for security reasons.

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BORDERS

Conditions at Jordan border crossings inadequate

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Since 1967, Palestinian residents of the territories cross to and from Jordan via two crossings, at the Allenby Bridge and the Adam Bridge. The two points are also used for transferring merchandise.

The Allenby Bridge terminal is also used by Israeli Arabs on pilgrimage to Mecca, by tourists from Arab countries and other countries that have diplomatic relations with Israel, and UN personnel. Israeli Jews entering Jordan use other border crossings: at the Sheikh Hussein Bridge in the North and the Arava in the South.

From November 1996 to May 1997 the comptroller investigated the operation of the Allenby and Adam border crossings.

More than two years after the responsibility for operating the Allenby Bridge terminal was transferred from the civil administration to the Airports Authority, the comptroller found administrative and security regulations had not been enforced according to the interim agreement signed by Israel and the Palestinians in September 1995.

The report noted that due to disagreements, between the Defense Ministry and the Airports Authority, the transfer of equipment and structures from the civil administration to the Airports Authority hadn't taken place.

The report found that even though in 1996 far fewer people used the Allenby terminal than expected, the personnel hours (excluding security guards) exceeded the budgeted amount by some 45%. However, 42% fewer hours were registered by security guards than was allotted.

The facilities at the terminal are poor. The parking area has no roof to protect vehicles from the hot sun, there is no seating and sanitary conditions are inadequate.

The report also noted that sewage at the terminal had not been treated as required and drained into the Jordan River. The comptroller demanded that the Airports Authority carry out the necessary infrastructure improvements.

The number of IDF soldiers manning the Adam Bridge crossing, which is still run by the civil administration, was far less than required.

The comptroller also noted that many of those employed at both border crossings are not skilled enough in Arabic to read the various documents handed over by travelers.

The comptroller suggested that before workers were employed at the crossings they take a special course in learning to read documents.

IDF

Security cordon along Green Line a failure

By STEVE RODAN

The IDF's establishment of a security cordon between the territories and Israel has been a failure, with tens of thousands of Palestinians illegally crossing the Green Line daily and Israeli Arab criminals finding safe havens for their activity in Palestinian Authority areas.

The comptroller said that terrorists exploit the breach along the 290-kilometer-long Green Line and enjoy virtually complete freedom to cross into Israel and commit terror attacks. Israeli efforts to stop infiltration through IDF roadblocks or erecting natural barriers have been ineffective.

Palestinians routinely smuggle weapons, drugs and stolen cars, the report said, noting that the economic damage alone from the illegal traffic is huge.

The comptroller's study remarked that Palestinian terrorists, between 1991-96, conducted 76 attacks within Israel, not including Jerusalem.

The terrorists easily crossed the Green Line by Israeli buses or private vehicles, carrying their weapons and explosives.

Several plans drafted by the IDF and government committees to prevent infiltration have not been implemented, including a plan to prevent terrorists from entering Jerusalem.

The report pointed to a plan approved by then IDF deputy chief of staff Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i in 1995 to construct three barriers extending 8.5 kilometers between communities on the



Israeli side of the Green Line and the adjacent Palestinian areas, including Kalkilya and Tulkarm. The project involved the purchase of NIS 40 million of sophisticated electronic measures such as sensors and infra-red cameras to monitor infiltration.

By August 1997, the equipment had not been installed and there were no regular patrols in the area, seriously reducing the effectiveness of the project.

The current security system is based on roadblocks and constant patrols. But the comptroller's check of four roadblocks found that Palestinians crossed the Green Line unhindered only a few hundred meters away from the IDF checkpoints.

The IDF told the comptroller in November 1997 that in the absence of a fence or physical barrier, soldiers are unable to stop the illegal traffic of people and goods.

But the comptroller pointed to IDF priorities that deem it more important to concentrate soldiers in areas of friction with Palestinians rather than prevent infiltration along the Green Line.

Moreover, Israeli efforts to coordinate with the PA police to prevent infiltration have decreased since 1996. In October of that year, the Israel Police, responsible for the frontiers just inside the Green Line, told the IDF that because of budget cuts police officers would not participate in joint patrols with their Palestinian counterparts.

In addition, the Palestinian Police has refused Israel Police requests to coordinate investigations of crimes by Israeli citizens within PA areas. The result is, the report said, that Israeli criminal complaints about incidents in Area A are not dealt with by either the PA or Israel.

Therefore, Israeli criminals – virtually all of them Arabs – are free to operate in Area A with impunity.

The comptroller quoted an IDF report from the Regional Security Committee that the failure of Israeli-Palestinian cooperation on criminals operating on both sides of the Green Line "could lead in the future to cooperation between criminals in smuggling all kinds of weapons; that the use of weapons by criminals that could lead to shooting from both sides [of the Green Line] and that the PA police will become used to dealing with Israeli criminals by arguing that the Israel Police are not handling the matter."

DEFERMENTS

IDF not diligent about locating deferment violators

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

In a follow-up to a comptroller's report on draft deferments filed a decade ago, the comptroller found that none of the recommendations made in 1988 had been implemented, and the number of deferments had increased drastically.

The number of those deferring service was 18,350 in 1988, but by 1997 the number was 28,772. This figure represented 7.4 percent of those eligible for military service.

Supervision of the yeshivot whose students were granted deferments was deemed inadequate.

The army claimed that it visited all yeshivot nationwide once every three years to make sure students listed there are really studying.

But an examination found that the IDF had visited only approximately half of the 622 recognized yeshivot in the past three years.

The report questioned the IDF's diligence in trying to locate and punish those who violated the terms of the deferment by working.

The comptroller also referred to the report on draft deferments written by Haim Yisraeli, a deputy director-general of the Defense Ministry.



The report questioned why the report was not released for five years and was only addressed seriously following a petition on the matter to the High Court of Justice.

The Yisraeli Report recommends that those seeking deferments be required to sign a declaration that they will not work.

It also calls for yeshivot to be held strictly accountable for their students, and for sanctions to be taken against yeshivot that cover up or abet their students' violations of their deferments.

The Yisraeli report found that approximately 40% of yeshiva students violated the terms of their deferments.

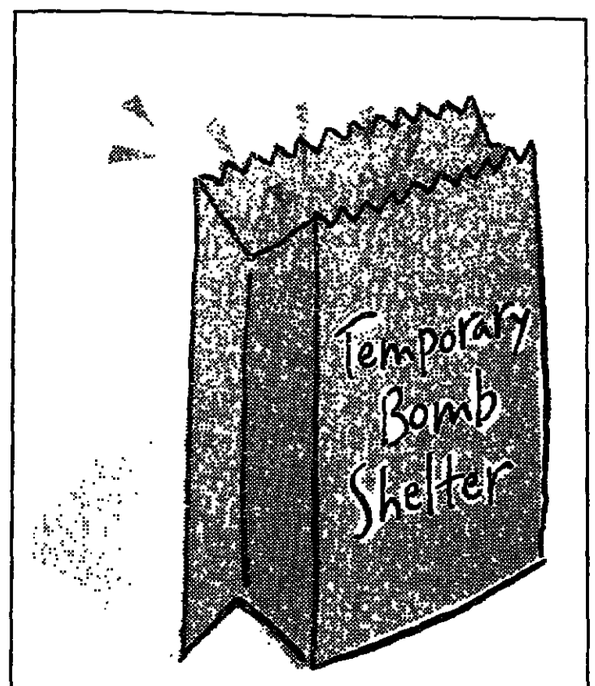
But of those yeshiva students who were caught and eventually called up, the comptroller noted, 92% were released from service because they were deemed unsuitable.

In response, the IDF acknowledged it was having difficulties auditing every yeshiva, saying this was due to a lack of funds.

It noted that it would reach 95% of the yeshivot in the next three years.

The army added it had taken steps to increase the supervision over those who are deferring service.

"It appears that the Defense Ministry is not willing to deal in principle with the fact that a large and growing number of young men of draft age are not contributing to the nation's defense, and that the matter is becoming more and more significant," the comptroller wrote.



WAR READINESS

Third of the nation lacks proper shelters

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

A whopping 30 percent of the country's 1.5 million households do not have access to a shelter in or near their living quarters.

Half of those who do have shelters have the type that are built to withstand bombings, but not chemical or biological weapons.

The problem is particularly serious in the center of the country, its economic hub, "where the concentration of the population is greatest, but where there is virtually no new construction," the report said.

Most schools and hospitals also don't have adequate shelters, since most were built before the threat of unconventional weapons had been considered.

The comptroller criticized the foot-dragging in building proper shelters in schools. The Finance Ministry is wasting money by funding the construction of old-fashioned bomb shelters at schools, despite the Home Front's position that they are not effective for facing today's threats, she said.

The Finance Ministry justified this by noting the Health Ministry's position is not to hold classes during times of national emergency, so the shelters would sit empty, anyway.

But the report noted that the policy under governments past and present is that classes would not necessarily be canceled during war, so as to allow life to go on as normally as possible.

The comptroller advised the government to take a clear stand on protecting the home front during a war, and suggested a series of incentives for the public to improve their shelters.

The IDF said that by law, the local authorities are required to build public shelters and the Home Front Command merely acts as an adviser in the matter.

It also passed the buck regarding shelters in schools and hospitals, blaming the Education and Finance ministries.

In another section the comptroller examined the IDF reserve system, the backbone of the country's defense in time of war, which still receives enormous funding and manpower to maintain its readiness.

But the state comptroller found that the IDF hasn't bothered to update its list of reservists, which often causes confusion, and the people responsible for implementing call-ups are not properly trained.

It also noted that the IDF did not have call-up drills during 1992-1996, as it had planned. It also faulted the IDF for not examining the ramifications of reservists using their private cars to go to war, something which could cause massive traffic jams.

HOUSING MINISTRY

Land allocations for haredi housing exceed demand

By HERB KEINON

The Housing Ministry is continuing to allocate land for haredi housing, even though there are currently some 51,000 units in the pipeline for this sector, enough to provide this community with housing for the next 17 years.

The comptroller further found that these land allocations are being made without checking to see if there is a demand for haredi housing in the areas being allocated.

New communities designated for haredim are receiving ministry benefits that greatly reduce home prices, while similar non-haredi communities have not enjoyed similar perks, the comptroller said.

This favorable treatment also prevailed under the previous government.

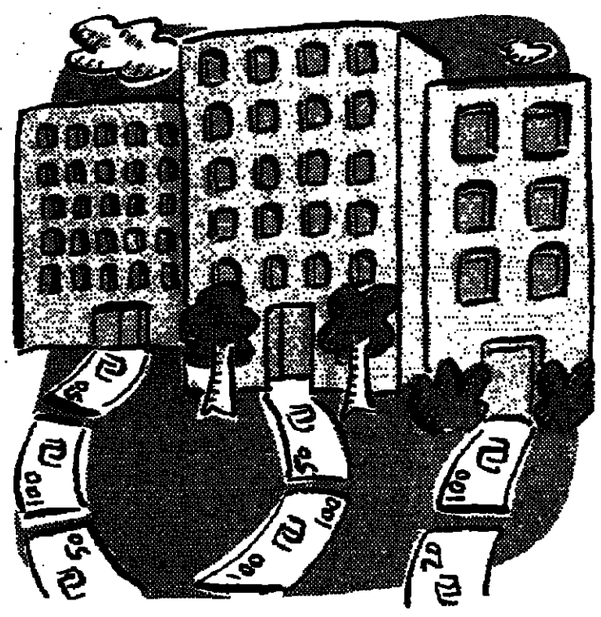
Just prior to the 1996 elections, the comptroller wrote, the government decided on a NIS 11.6 million grant for infrastructure development in Kiryat Sefer, a haredi settlement just over the Green Line.

"The [comptroller's] office did not find documentation for the reasons behind giving this benefit to this settlement, and granting it preferential treatment over other [communities] in the area," the report read.

Three months before the elections, the Labor government granted benefits and subsidies for haredi housing in Elad, near Rosh Ha'ayin. Similar benefits were not given to other communities in the area.

The preferential treatment of Kiryat Sefer has continued under the current government, she noted.

It was given the status of National Priority Area B, which affords it certain benefits, but which was not given to other communities in the immediate area.



The government also allocated NIS 10 million for infrastructure in the city, something not offered to nearby communities.

The comptroller found that deputy housing minister Meir Porush has worked to change the status of Harish, one of the "seven star" communities going up in the Wadi Ara area, from a mixed religious-secular community to a haredi one.

Porush also lobbied to give that particular community the status of National Priority Area A.

In addition, the comptroller noted that the ministry is allowed by law to allocate certain land parcels to population groups with a "religious character."

What the ministry hasn't done, she said, is define the term "religious character," and in practice allocates such areas only for haredim.

This is "contrary to directives by the attorney-general that separate areas should not be allocated only for haredim," the comptroller wrote.

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS MINISTRY

Yeshivot get money for fictitious registrants

By HERB KEINON

Paying yeshivot for students who had long left that particular yeshiva, and failing to properly monitor yeshiva applications for funds, were among the problems found in the investigation of the Religious Affairs Ministry's department that funds Torah institutions.

This department allocates roughly half of the ministry's budget, which stood at NIS 1.6 billion in 1997.

During that year, the ministry allocated NIS 796 million to hundreds of yeshivot and seminaries for some 194,000 men and women students.

Some of that money, the comptroller found, was transferred to yeshivot ineligible for the funds, because the registered students were no longer studying there.

A smaller amount of money was paid for students registered under fictitious names.

The Religious Affairs Ministry provides a monthly sum to yeshivot per student. For instance, a yeshiva high school receives NIS 355 per pupil per month, a full-day kollel gets NIS 653 per head, and the hesder yeshivot receive NIS 672 per student.

The comptroller found that the number of students in the various Torah institutions jumped by nearly 25 percent between 1995 and 1997.

This is far beyond the increase registered in non-Torah educational institutions.

What emerges from the report is that one reason for this jump is that the ministry had been paying some yeshivot for students who were not there.

For instance, in August 1997 the comptroller checked some 1,150 students whose ID numbers looked suspicious. The comptroller found that of these, 400 students were registered under ID numbers that did not exist, and 42 students were registered under the names of people who did not exist, or who are not Jewish.

In addition, the comptroller found that in 262 cases, the ministry paid money to yeshivot for students who, according to IDF records, were signed up in institutions that for ideological reasons do not accept money from the state.

In other words, a student was enrolled in one yeshiva that takes no money from the state, but his name appeared on the list of another yeshiva that does accept funding. This, of course, meant that the registration list of one of those yeshivot had to be inaccurate.

The comptroller quoted from her 1994 report, which also dealt with yeshiva funding.

In it, she said that the ministry should stop funding to, or even take legal action against, institutions that presented falsified documents.

"The findings of the comptroller shows that there has been no improvement in this area," she wrote.

Illustrations by G.H. Freedman

DRIVE CAREFULLY

THURSDAY IN THE POST

The Weekender - book reviews, what to do, where to go, recipes and restaurants, film, theater, chess, bridge and fashion

INTERIOR MINISTRY

Screening inadequate when reissuing gun licenses

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Many people here carry weapons even though there is no particular reason for them to do so, the comptroller found.

The law permits civilians and those working for certified companies to possess and/or carry weapons only with a license granted by the Interior Ministry. Such a license also requires the recommendation of the police and Health Ministry.

To obtain the license, an applicant has to provide a reasonable excuse for needing the weapon.

But the investigation revealed that, once a gun license is issued, the ministry does not, when reissuing the license, systematically check that the reason it was granted is still valid.

At the same time, the ministry fails to monitor whether weapon owners are training regularly or whether weapons belonging to deceased persons are turned over to the police.

Information on possible violators of these rules is not passed on regularly by the Interior Ministry to the police, whose duty it is to track down offenders.

Ministry officials do not conduct an interview with people who apply for licenses although this is a stipulation of the law.

The IDF has an updated computerized list of medical information but it fails to transfer this regularly to the Health Ministry, as is required. (The IDF said the Medical Corps is preparing to do this.)

The Health Ministry, meanwhile, does not transfer medical information from the IDF to the Interior Ministry with regard to persons requesting a license.

Moreover, the law requires a doctor or psychologist to report to the Health Ministry any person who is likely to harm himself or the public with a weapon or who is physically unfit to carry a weapon, the report says.

No license should be granted before this list is checked, the comptroller said.

The Labor and Social Affairs Ministry also has useful information about people who could pose a danger to the public but this information is not used, the report noted.

On the other hand, the police automatically rejects license applications from those suspected of non-serious crimes, although the law says that every case must be checked individually to protect the applicant's civil rights.

The police do not check the weapons that are held by licensed organizations and there are no updated computerized lists of all the weapons that would make it possible to identify every weapon.

Weapons should be granted to recognized organizations on a personal and not a collective basis, the report recommended.

TRANSPORT MINISTRY

TA traffic mess stems from delays, indecision

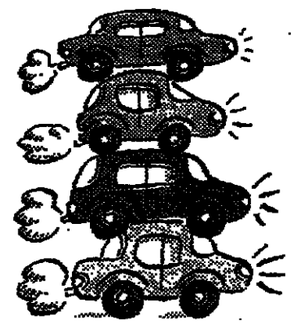
By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Faulty planning, insufficient budgets, delays and indecision are preventing the devising of a solution to the Tel Aviv metropolitan area's traffic and mass transit problems.

In the last three years, the government, municipality and Ports and Railways Authority have been preparing plans, costing some NIS 30 million, to alleviate the traffic tie-ups in the Tel Aviv metropolitan area. By the end of last year, however, nothing had been implemented.

The deteriorating public transport conditions are causing damage to the economy and to the residents' quality of life, says the report.

The comptroller warned that continued delay in advancing a mass transit solution for the area – delineated by Netanya in the north, Rosh Ha'ayin and Modi'in in the east, Ashdod in the south and the sea in the west – would lead to the area's roads becoming impassable.



If the authorities delay in finding solutions any further, plans that have cost many millions of shekels will be outdated, and costly new ones will be needed, she added.

In addition, construction being proposed on the land intended for building mass transit projects will prevent them from ever being implemented.

The report found that authorities failed to allocate sufficient budgets for suburban rail lines agreed upon with the Ports and Railway Authority, including lines to Kfar Sava, Lod and other suburbs.

The authority, meanwhile, planned four railway stations along the Ayalon route as an essential part of the suburban train system, but construction of three stations out of the four hasn't even started yet.



TRANSPORT

A threat of clogged skies

By LIAT COLLINS

Plans for more airports have yet to take off, threatening the country's ability to deal with the predicted increase in international and domestic air travel.

Although the Transport Ministry began drawing up a national outline plan for airports (TAMA 15) as early as 1972, it is still not finished, and without it there is no statutory protection for the land proposed as airfields.

Similarly, work on a master plan for aviation only began in 1997.

Although throughout all these years it was clear that the country needs a second international airport, no alternative sites for or date of construction of this airport have been determined.

Under national planning and construction regulations from 1982, all airfields require an environmental impact report. However, the National Planning and Construction Council (NPCC) did not demand environmental impact reports for those airports mapped out in TAMA 15, including those which are in the process of being approved.

The comptroller also said there is a possible conflict of interests in the decision to allow the Israel Airports Authority, which today runs the airports, to draw up the master plan for airports – some of which, in the end, may be run by private companies.

"It's only natural to assume the authority will not examine the relevant issues – particularly the possibility that the airports will be operated by entrepreneurs – objectively," the comptroller wrote.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Many road signs no help in finding your way

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Road signs on the 5,000 kilometers of intercity roads are often so deficient that they prove a hazard more than a help, and safety fences and road dividers are often substandard or non-existent.

The comptroller noted there had been a drop in the Department of Public Works's (DPW) maintenance budget between 1995 and 1997.

In sections of Highways 1, 2, 4 and 5, and on parts of the Ayalon Highway, road signs were erected without the proper authorization from the Transport Ministry's traffic comptroller.

Road projects carried out by various bodies failed to use uniform road signs and comply with the guidelines for placing the signs.

Many road signs are hidden by trees and many are not painted with luminous paint to enable night reading; in fact, on many signs the paint had so faded that they could hardly be read in the daytime.

The comptroller stressed that the DPW had failed to build security fences and dividers in many places where they were needed; where they did exist, many were poorly placed or substandard, and thus ineffective.

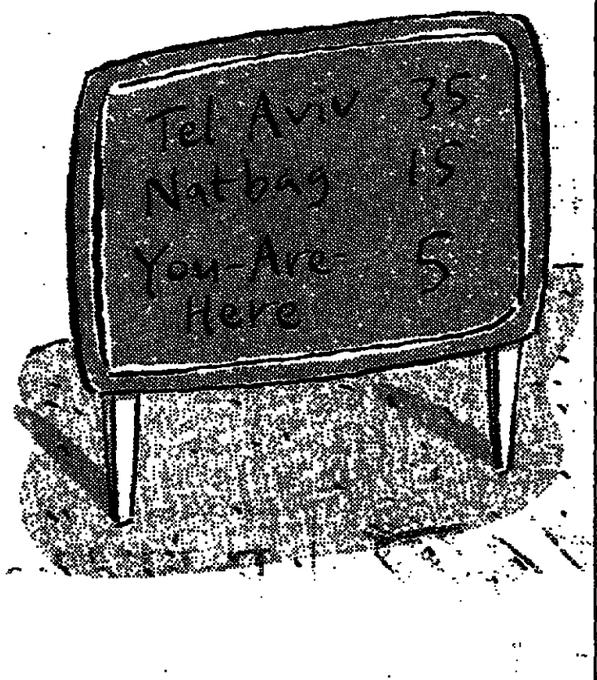
Many had not been repaired after they had been hit by vehicles.

To minimize damage when vehicles crash into light poles along the highways the poles are constructed so that on impact they fall to the ground.

But in many cases the poles were embedded in cement that jutted some 20 centimeters to 60 cm. from ground level thus posed more of a threat to vehicles than a safety provision.

When the DPW is paving roads, temporary alternatives must be arranged and enforced to allow for the smooth flow of traffic.

At the Rosh Ha'ayin junction, a contractor working for the DPW was found to have failed to properly mark the detour with the required directional signs.



Trucks used by the contractor endangered oncoming traffic by swerving from the lane being paved to the lane being used by traffic.

HOUSING MINISTRY

Regulations ignored in planning new cities

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Housing Ministry initiated the development of two towns – Irron, in the Wadi Ara region, and Bnei Ayish, south of Gedera – without following regulations, the comptroller found.

Although the national planning bodies had determined that Irron would not be needed before the year 2020, the Housing Ministry started planning the new town in 1993, conducting surveys and commissioning a study that was meant to establish that the town was really needed.

This study, however, determined that building Irron at the time was not necessarily a better alternative than other plans being proposed to increase the housing stock in the Haifa district.

But the planning procedures continued, despite objections from the Interior Ministry, the Environment Ministry, and without the approval of the Israel Lands Administration, the National Council for Planning and Building, or either the Labor or Likud cabinets.

In early 1997, the ministry persisted in listing Irron as crucial to meeting future housing needs.

Throughout the years, however, the ministry has refrained from examining the impact of building a city on communities in the area, although this is required. According to the report, Irron was being planned in an area that is defined in the country's master plan as an "open non-urban district and an area for preservation of natural resources" in which urban building is prohibited.

In 1990, the Expediting Committee for Construction (*vallal*) approved plans presented by a private entrepreneur and the ILA for the building of 1,100 housing units on land adjacent to the small village of Bnei Ayish. Five hundred more units were later added to the plan.

The plan was clearly inconsistent with the suburban environment of the place and did not include public buildings and open spaces as required by the Interior Ministry.

Moreover, half of the area included in the ILA plan is exposed to high decibel noise from a nearby air-force base, making the building of housing and public buildings there strictly forbidden.

The report concludes that there is no reason to turn Bnei Ayish into a city, and that approval of the plan led to urban and social problems in the town.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

Supervision of communications services inadequate

By JUDY SIEGEL

After the Communications Ministry transferred responsibility for providing phone and mail services to Bezeq and the Postal Authority some 15 years ago, its main task is to supervise the standard and cost of these public services.

But the comptroller found that this oversight has been inadequate.

"In recent years, the ministry has worked to increase the supply and variety of telecommunications services available to the public and increase competition in this sector, so that they will become cheaper and more varied," the comptroller wrote.

While this has happened, regulation of the sector to ensure fair competition has not been completed, according to the comptroller. The authorities also failed to update laws and regulations on which inspections are based to suit the current and rapidly changing telecommunications sector.



Checks on suppliers of services were often too infrequent and the ministry failed to bring to their attention the inspectors' findings so the providers could improve service.

In addition, the ministry often didn't insist on shortcomings being corrected and inadequate supervision failed to deter violation of licenses.

One example is the supply of phone service for patients in 20 hospitals.

Hospital managements signed contracts with a single provider in each institution, so the company enjoys a monopoly and the hospital happily shares in the profits.

The comptroller found that phone rates were unreasonably high.

But providers argued that the widespread use of cellular phones inside hospitals – despite rules limiting this since they could interfere with sensitive medical equipment – reduced the number of potential customers.

The comptroller stated that the ministry must immediately make provisions to supply reasonably priced phone services for patients in coordination with the Health Ministry.

Inadequate supervision was also a problem in voice information services.

At the end of last year, there were 70 such companies holding special, one-year licenses that could be extended from time to time.

Not only did erotic call services drift from the 056 lines set aside for them to the "more respectable" no-sex 057 lines, but the calling rates were all but hidden from customers, many of whom complained of inflated bills.

In its supervision of overseas dialling providers, the ministry didn't set down clear criteria for standards of service to be met; as a result, it couldn't judge the level of service and punish those who failed to meet minimum standards.

FIRE SERVICE

Search for missing firefighters

By LIAT COLLINS

The question asked in the report on the Fire and Rescue Service is not "Where's the fire?" but "Where are the firefighters?" Only two of the 25 Fire and Rescue Service stations are fully manned. Some fire stations have just two firefighters on duty and several have only one.

Similarly, the number of vehicles does not meet the designated standards and in many stations – particularly small and medium-sized ones – the vehicles are old and frequently down for repairs.

The dramatic increase in the number of high-rise buildings, which have particular fire hazards, has not been fully addressed by the service. Although proposals have been submitted, they have not yet become regulations.

The comptroller found that 166 classrooms classified in 1995 as potential firetraps are still being used despite the service's warnings.

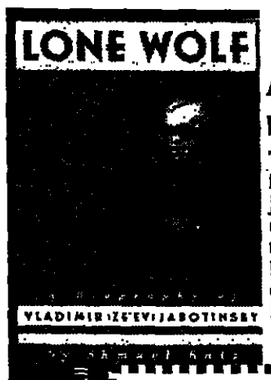
The Health Ministry only carried out a survey of fire hazards in hospitals before this year's budget and has not yet drawn up a timetable for implementing the necessary improvements.

There has been an improvement however in the handling of forest fires, although more landing pads are required to enable planes and helicopters to refill with water on-site instead of wasting time by returning to their bases.

The comptroller also criticized the firefighters' training school, which held only "very limited training activities" between 1995 and 1996 and did not run many of the planned training programs in 1997, particularly with regard to handling hazardous materials.

She said the school had not developed a comprehensive, professional approach to firefighting and prevention, and in some cases the information being taught is outdated.

book department



A Biography of Vladimir (Ze'ev) Jabotinsky
by Shmuel Katz

This is the long-awaited English version of the biography of one of the most dramatic figures of 20th century Jewish history - Ze'ev Jabotinsky, founder of Revisionism - journalist, novelist, poet, soldier, linguist and outstanding orator. Shmuel Katz has drawn on archival material, unpublished and newly translated letters, and extensive sources for this account of the center of Zionist history in the 1920's and beyond. Katz himself is known as an author and newspaper columnist; he has used newly available archival documentation in this meticulous and comprehensive biography, from Odessa, 1880 to New York, 1940. Previously published in Hebrew as JABO. Hardcover, 2 vol., 1856pp.

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EDUCATIONAL TV

ETV has difficulty adjusting to de facto commercial status

By HELEN KAYE

Criticism of Educational Television (ETV) was not leveled at its broadcasts but at its legal status and structure, cost overruns and accounting practices.

The report, based on an audit between March and August of last year, also relates to the conflicts surrounding the appointment of a new general manager.

Educational Television, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Education since 1965 broadcasting solely on Channel 1 (elementary education), began to broadcast on Channel 2 (high school and youth) in 1993 and on cable Channel 23 (adult enrichment and culture) in 1995.

Its 1997 operating budget was NIS 174m., of which NIS 58m. was designated as earned income from the sale of advertising and its programs both locally and abroad.

Educational Television spends some 38% on productions, 17% goes toward the purchase of imported and other local productions and the rest on marketing, publication of teaching material, research and so forth.

The report also concluded that Educational Television's financial structure has not changed appreciably since it began broadcasting on Channel 2 and 23.

The report pointed out that Educational Television's funding, most of which still comes from the Education Ministry, has not appreciably changed even though the number of weekly broadcast hours went from 56 in 1993 to 108 in 1997.

Educational Television's accounting practices are not in keeping with its de facto commercial status which involves sales, marketing and the collection of VAT.

For example, its 1997 financial report does not accurately reflect income and expenditure as required by law.

The report did not suggest, however, that Educational Television has been guilty of financial misconduct and stated that the Treasury has helped to lay down suitable guidelines for 1998.

The report deplored the maneuvering surrounding the appointment of a new Educational Television head following the resignation last fall of Ahuva Finemesser, and said that the "continuing uncertainty adversely affects the long-term planning, decision-making and morale necessary for proper management."

LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Old-age home monitoring borders on anarchy

By DAN IZENBERG

There are serious problems in the licensing and supervision of old-age homes which has led in some cases to situations bordering on anarchy.

Old-age homes are the responsibility of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry. (Elderly requiring intensive medical care are the Health Ministry's responsibility.)

The comptroller found that of 187 old-age homes operating in August 1997, the licenses of 44 of them had expired before the comprehensive check required to renew the permit had either started or been completed. Thirty-three other old-age homes were operating though they had never been licensed.

Many of the homes are in substandard condition. A comprehensive examination of 159 homes in 1995 and 1996 found that more than 25 percent of them were deficient in at least five of the 12 categories tested. More than half of the old age homes had insufficient or improper personnel.

There are no regulations governing physical standards in old-age homes housing seven to 12 residents. Regulations regarding the number of staff apply only to old-age homes with over 50 residents.

The comptroller also found that the government paid different sums of money to different old-age homes – payments ranging from under NIS 2,400 a month to NIS 5,350 a month. In most cases, there was no correlation between the amount of money paid and the level of care for the resident.

There are also problems in the ministry's supervision of the old-age homes. For example, inspectors often do not fix a timetable for the old age homes to correct problems or even provide a detailed description of what the problems are.

Most disturbing is that the state finds it very difficult to close unlicensed or substandard homes, sometimes due to political pressure. In one of three examples provided, a Yisrael Ba'aliya MK and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein had applied strong pressure to keep one such institution running.

Four months after a court had ordered the home closed, the home was still operating. Inspectors found that the home's manager had removed most of the sick from his home, supposedly in compliance with the demands of the authorities.

It turned out, however, that he had transferred them to other buildings in his possession, that were in even poorer condition.

Another indictment was filed against the manager, but the home is still functioning.

HEALTH MINISTRY

Placing sick elderly takes too long

By DAN IZENBERG



The Health Ministry must act to reduce the number of chronically sick elderly waiting for placement in appropriate geriatric facilities, the comptroller urged, adding that the practice of placing them in unsuitable institutions must also stop.

The ratio of hospital beds for the sick elderly in Israel is one of the lowest in the Western world, she wrote. She found that in December 1997, 2,772 elderly people were waiting for a bed in a geriatric institution. More than half were still at home. The rest were in inappropriate institutions. The official waiting list has almost doubled since 1994.

The fact that there are not enough beds poses great hardships for the families of the sick elderly, who are thus forced to care for them at home, or to place them in unlicensed institutions far from where they live.

Potentially, there are thousands more elderly who need hospitalization immediately, or will need it soon, so there is likely to be a severe shortage of beds over the coming years, even if the Health Ministry receives more funding.

There are 14,750 beds available today for the sick elderly. According to forecasts, 6,050 more beds are needed by the year 2000. But the Health Ministry says that only 2,000-2,500 new beds will be available by then.

The scarcity of beds has created a black market. Two thousand sick elderly are living in unlicensed institutions, where the services offered are below the minimal required standard.

Nevertheless, they continue to operate because the state has no better alternative. In some cases, hospitals have been known to recommend these unlicensed institutions to the patients' families.

There is also a shortage of professional staff, particularly doctors specializing in geriatrics. Some 300 more geriatric doctors will be needed over the coming decade, the report said.

According to the head of the Health Ministry's geriatric division, the increasing backlog is the result of these factors:

- The budget for geriatric hospitalization has not increased in accordance with the number of sick elderly;
- Hopes that the National Health Insurance law would include the costs of hospitalization for the sick elderly have encouraged many people to register for geriatric placement;
- Life expectancy has increased so more people need hospitalization, while the length of time those hospitalized in institutions go on living and occupy their beds has also increased.

HEALTH MINISTRY

No documented supervision of hospitals or procedures

Elevators carry patients along with garbage, dirty laundry

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry, as both the owner and operator of 26 government hospitals, is too busy providing health services to the public, leaving little time for setting policy, planning, supervision and control, the comptroller wrote.

She devoted 98 pages of her annual report to documenting this, noting that her representatives "couldn't find records testifying to the fact that the ministry performs [any] ongoing supervision of the general hospitals of the government, Kupat Holim Clalit or other public organizations. In addition, there was no evidence of reports of supervision of clinics, labs and diagnostic institutes in these hospitals."

One example is the ministry's dealings with ultrasound equipment, technicians and physicians who are supposed to supervise the scans.

The comptroller found that the ministry lacks the ability to register and supervise ultrasound institutes, nor has it defined the skills needed by those who perform the scans or standards for the equipment, even though mistakes in diagnosis can involve life-and-death matters.

At Ichilov Hospital, ultrasound technicians were found to sign the supervising doctors' names on the results of scans they themselves had performed.

Occupancy rates in hospitals were much higher, on average, than permitted, increasing patients' suffering. Permanent over-occupancy without the ministry director-general's approval violates the law, the comptroller noted.

Supervision of clinics for Israelis who plan to travel abroad was also found wanting. Tens of thousands of mostly young people leave each year for extended visits to the Far East, South America, Africa and other regions that pose major health risks.

But the ministry hasn't produced an authoritative booklet explaining health dangers to these travelers, including what immunizations and medications they need and how to avoid contracting disease.

It was learned that each clinic – some private and some operating out of district health offices and public hospitals – prepares its own material, and the lists of required vaccinations and drugs vary from clinic to clinic.

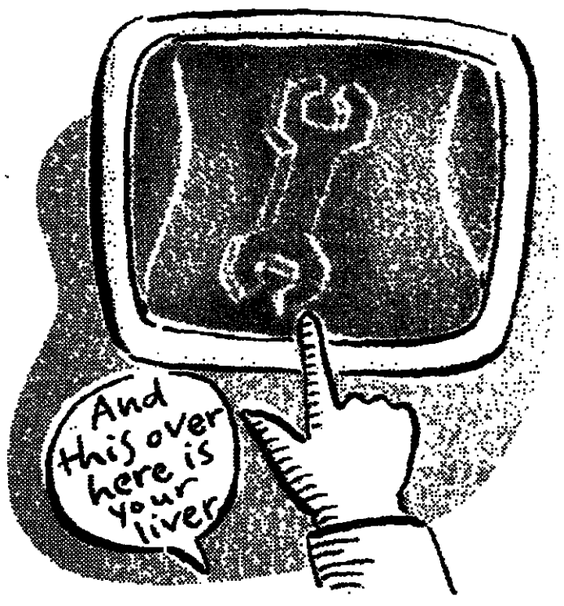
In an examination of the ministry's Food Service Division, it was revealed that 800 of the country's food manufacturers are operating without a current license.

Even when inspectors investigate and serious health dangers are found, legal action is not taken against many of the factories.

Moreover the NIS 1,000 fine for violators is so minuscule that it doesn't deter them from breaking the law and endangering public health.

At the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus, it was learned that some hospital elevators were transporting not only patients on their way to and from operating rooms, but also overflowing carts of dirty laundry and garbage, in addition to food supplies.

"There is great likelihood that patients would be infected by microbes in the elevators," she wrote.



And, last but not least, the ministry's implementation of the National Health Insurance Law, which went into effect on January 1, 1995, continues to be inadequate. Health fund deficits continue to mount, and the basket of health services to which all residents are entitled shrinks, because it has not been regularly updated to include new treatments and medication.

The Arrangements Bill passed by the government at the end of 1997 will require, unless altered, the charging of additional fees by the health funds, doctors, hospital outpatient clinics and emergency rooms – beyond the health tax residents already pay on their salaries each month.

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY

Public health still at risk from Palestinian Authority produce

By NINA GILBERT

The failure of the Agriculture and Health ministries to adequately monitor produce brought into Israel from the Palestinian-controlled areas still threatens public health, the comptroller said, noting that many problems cited in last year's report had not been corrected.

The comptroller reported that in 1997 the amount of smuggled fruits and vegetables confiscated dropped significantly, from 538 tons in 1996 to only 329 tons in 1997.

At the same time, the amount of produce being brought legally into the country rose 13%, the report noted.

The amount of animals and animal products (meat, eggs, etc.) confiscated rose some 47% in 1996 over 1995, and it seemed to the comptroller that increased confiscations had begun to serve as a deterrent to illegal slaughtering and smuggling. However, the level of animal and animal products confiscation is still too low, she said.

In the earlier report, the comptroller had noted that the Health Ministry had only one inspector for the import of processed foods and fish, at Karni. In the review, she found that two more positions had been allotted for supervision of processed foods from Gaza, but none from Judea and Samaria.

The comptroller last year had also noted that produce from the PA areas arrives without any documents stating that it has been checked by the PA and it meets Israeli standards.

In response, the Health Ministry said then that it was formulating together with the Agriculture Ministry and the PA a new method of inspection.

However, in the review it was found that "a procedure was formulated and implemented for giving permits only for produce from Judea and Samaria, including testing. As a result, agricultural produce from the Gaza Strip is not tested... to ensure that it meets the standards required for Israeli produce.



"This situation results in the danger that agricultural produce entering Israel threatens public health," the comptroller wrote.

The state comptroller last year had instructed the inspection unit to install computers to link all border crossings to the unit headquarters, after finding that only the Karni crossing had a computer.

A computer system can help prevent producers whose produce is rejected at one crossing from trying to bring it in through another, the comptroller said.

In the review, the comptroller found that computers had been installed in all 13 crossing points, but only six were connected to communications networks. The comptroller noted, though, that the unit is developing a computer program to meet its needs and has already begun to use it.

FOREIGN WORKERS

Info about foreign workers woefully incomplete

By SURIE ACKERMAN

Neither the Employment Service nor the Interior Ministry have comprehensive, accessible information on the country's legal foreign workers – let alone on those people who arrive here as tourists and then remain illegally – a situation that has not changed, even though the comptroller commented on it last year.

A check revealed that while the Employment Service's computer system lists the requests for and personal information about foreign workers employed as nurses, hotel workers, and in manufacturing, it does not have details about employers or workers in construction and agriculture, even though some 90% of foreign workers work in these fields. This makes the data virtually useless for monitoring foreign workers.

In the Interior Ministry's database, information about workers and employers was not entered consistently or accurately, making that database useless for audits.

The government decided in March 1996 to try to prevent tourists from working here illegally by providing legal workers with special documents upon arrival at the airport. By the end of the comptroller's investigation last October, this had not been implemented.

The Interior Ministry told the comptroller that it was setting up a special unit to process foreign workers at the airport. It also said it was developing a comprehensive program for dealing with foreign workers, from the time they are requested by an employer until they finally leave the country.

POLICE

Police intelligence lax in gathering info

There is no comprehensive plan for collecting intelligence information on criminals and crime patterns, the comptroller found.

As a result, the police has only a limited ability to detect increases in given areas of crime in real time and to detect the development of new crime patterns before they become established, when they become more difficult to combat.

Many crimes that could have been solved sooner had intelligence gathering been more professional ended up being solved by chance arrests of criminals by police on patrol, she said.

A check of two different police districts found that even when information did seem to be available, it was not dealt with properly.

For example, there were four times the number of intelligence tips on gambling in 1995, compared to 1991. Despite this, there was never a comprehensive intelligence survey on gambling, and police reports between 1994 and 1996 didn't even bother to note an increase in the phenomenon.

Moreover, despite the persistent increase in information on the subject, gambling was dropped on the police's list of priorities from 21st in 1995 to 24th.

A similar pattern can be seen with the approach to car theft. Despite the annual rise in car thefts, and though a comprehensive study on the matter was done in 1993, the Intelligence Division only made dealing with it a priority in 1996.

Information received on possible crimes in public bodies was not dealt with properly, since there is no set procedure for processing such information or verifying information in cases that the fraud squad wanted to focus on.

Police Insp.-Gen Yehuda Wilk said that within a month he would report on steps he had taken to make improvements in accordance with the comptroller's findings.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, however, said he saw no need to make any major changes in the Intelligence Division. For several months, since the resignation of Cmdr. Avi Cohen as head of the Intelligence Division, the post has remained vacant.

(Itim)

LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Ministry has inadequate follow-up on treatment of foster children

By BATSHEVA TSUR

In the summer of 1997, there were 1,448 children living with foster families. It is the responsibility of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry's Service for the Child and Youth to follow up with the foster families to monitor what kind of treatment the children are receiving.

This information is supposed to be supplied by the social service departments of the local councils.

In March 1997, the comptroller's investigation found that there had been reports supplied about children's conditions in only 44% of the cases. Thirty-seven percent of these reports dated from 1993 or earlier.

There were foster children in 144 localities, but the ministry had provided trained counselors in only 64 of them.

Counselors were handling only 23 families each, not the 32 mandated by the ministry.

In one locality, where an in-depth study was carried out, the case files did not contain documentation on the decisions to send the children to foster homes.

Nor did they have regular reports from the social workers who were supposed to be in touch with the foster families or reports that showed that the counselors had held courses to prepare the foster families.

This made supervision on a national scale impossible. In effect, the ministry was dependent on the goodwill of the counselors for information.

There is no comprehensive legislation dealing with foster families, the comptroller says in her report.

A decision in 1995 to set up a data base on foster families had still not been implemented when the comptroller's investigation was done in July 1997.

The comptroller's report recommended that the ministry act on a national level to organize courses aimed at locating foster families and preparing them to care for children.

The report also urged that the ministry obtain organized and regular reports about the well-being of children in foster families, in addition to having orderly documentation about the fostering process.

Gardener's Corner



The versatile rhubarb root

By Batsheva Mink and David Brauner

For many new immigrants from England, just hearing the word "rhubarb" conjures up recollections of seaside boarding houses with landladies serving up bowels of rhubarb and custard for "afters," and school dinners which inevitably ended with a tart or crumble tasting of boiled rhubarb.

Although today we think of rhubarb (Heb. *ribas* or *rubarba*) chiefly as a food source, most of the plant's long history has been connected to its medicinal value. It is known for its properties as a purgative (laxative), astringent (healing drug) and tonic (for health and tone).

In former times the rhubarb root was considered a panacea for everything from asthma and dysentery to sciatica and infected bites. Today these excessive claims have been considerably reduced, though the root is still considered helpful as a mild laxative and tonic for indigestion.

Medicinal rhubarb root (*Rheum officinale* and *R. palmatum*), one of the oldest known plants under cultivation, was described in the Chinese herbal Pen-King (believed to date from 2700 BCE). It was probably known to Greek, Roman and Arabic physicians. The great Venetian traveler Marco Polo (1254-1324) mentioned it in his diaries. The rhubarb plant, which originated in Siberia, became a valuable article of commerce monopolized by the Imperial Russian government in the 17th and 18th centuries – hence its old-fashioned name of "Russian" or "Crown" rhubarb. At that time it fetched prices ten times the price of cinnamon and four times that of saffron and opium.

Until 1762 when one Dr. Mouncey brought the seed from Russia to Scotland, only the dried roots had been seen in Europe. The growers jealously kept the seeds to themselves. The plant began to be cultivated in Banbury in Oxfordshire in 1777.

Today in Britain, rhubarb is grown largely in the northern county of Yorkshire in the region around Wakefield south of Leeds. The area is said to lead the world in rhubarb production. The crop is raised in huge sheds, and picked around the clock, sometimes by candlelight. In the winter harvest season trainloads of rhubarb are shipped south to London and beyond, into Europe.

The rhubarb or "pie plant" is a perennial, whose genus *Rheum* belongs to the dock and sorrel family *Polygonaceae*. It is also allied to the buckwheat plant.

The edible variety of rhubarb (*Rheum rhaponticum*) is technically a vegetable, although we usually eat the succulent, red leaf stalks as a desert food in fruit salad and the "humble crumble." Some people also make rhubarb wine.

The yellowish leaves and fruit should not be eaten, as they can be poisonous. Apart from being a culinary item, the huge leafy growth of the rhubarb is also prized as an ornamental plant in many gardens. Rhubarb is categorically a perennial which, once established, continues to yield a crop year after year with minimum care. So unlike most of the other vegetables we have written about, which are annuals – in other words vegetables that are sown or planted, grown and harvested and finally cleared from the ground in one year – rhubarb becomes a garden fixture, which can be harvested from late winter through to midsummer.

Most rhubarb varieties grow best in regions where summers are cool and moist and winters are cold with an occasional frost. A position of half-day sun is very suitable. It seems to like growing near the edge of the shade of larger trees, but not directly under them. It's nice to find a vegetable that does not always require full sun.

Rhubarb can be raised from seed, but this adds an extra year to the time it takes to establish itself. The quicker method is to buy a few one- or two-year-old "crowns" (that is, roots), divide them into sets, each consisting of a portion of root and at least one shoot, and plant them in a border or bed.

Choice and preparation of a site.

Remember, because rhubarb is a perennial, it will remain in its chosen spot for years. Also it is a large, leafy individual, so you will want to grow it on the edge of the vegetable patch where it will not shade other smaller, fast-growing annual plants.

Clear a site in part sun of all weeds, if possible, by digging out their roots. Dig down at least 25 cm., adding plenty of organic compost and mixing it in well with the soil. Level the ground when you have finished.

Planting. If you are planting crowns (roots with a shoot), space them about 75 cm. apart with 90 cm. between rows. Cover the crowns with about 3 cm. of soil. After a few weeks when the weather warms up and the young shoots start to come out of the ground, it is a good idea to mulch the plants with composted leaves, grass clippings, or straw to help maintain soil moisture and to cut down on weeds. The mulch may need topping up as the season warms up. Plant any time, except when the weather is too hot or too cold.

As we mentioned, rhubarb can be grown from seed, but it takes longer before the grower will see results. Also, seed is likely to produce a plant which is of a different variety to the one that bears the seed.

Watering.

Just like all other vegetables, rhubarb needs regular watering. The soil should be moist but not soggy, so don't overdo the watering.

Fertilizer.

Rhubarb is a vigorous plant and so must be fed with either a slow-release fertilizer or an all-purpose 20-20-20 dressing given once a month during the growing season.

Pests and diseases.

Rhubarb is not generally troubled by pests and diseases, especially when well grown.

Harvesting.

Here we come to the best part. It is a good idea to let your rhubarb plants grow undisturbed for their first year, as they need time to become established and build up a strong root system for future years.

During the second year you can begin to harvest, but leave a few stalks on the plant to continue growing. Pull the stems downwards and outwards to detach them from the crown.

The best time for harvesting is before the leaves have unfolded. Stop picking the stalks when you see that they are becoming weak and limp. They are at their best when they are young.

It is important, so we'll say it again: ONLY EAT THE RHUBARB STALK! The leaves contain a glycoside and large amounts of oxalic acid. The leaves are best relegated to the compost pile, where any harmful compounds will break down in the decaying process.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, e-mail: morrir@mail.biu.ac.il (writing "for David" in the subject line).



TIP OF THE WEEK

Your rhubarb may become bitter-tasting if you wait too long before harvesting it. If you pick the stalks before the leaves have fully unfolded – in other words while they are still young and tender – you can avoid their becoming too acidic.

In Europe growers use an interesting method to produce tender, sweet stalks called "blanching." Just before the young shoots start to emerge in late winter, large flower pots are placed over them to block out the light. This has the effect of making them nice and pink and less acidic.

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Heads 'N' Tails



A dog is the world's greatest snob

By D'vora Ben Shaul

One of our Tel Aviv readers tells us that her dog, a three-year-old Keeshound, is usually mild-tempered and friendly. However, she says, the dog has taken an almost hysterical dislike to a dozen or so foreign construction workers who pass her house every day on their way to and from work.

"Nothing can quieten her until they are completely out of sight around the corner," she says.

Dogs often have serious dislikes of certain ethnic or professional groups. This is, first of all, because a dog is the world's epitome of a snob.

Dogs, in general, only like people who are "just like us," whoever "us" may happen to be. As a result, they will almost always create a ruckus whenever someone who seems different is in the vicinity.

Sometimes dogs identify those who are different by the way they dress. Anything strange about their clothing will trigger a response.

I once had a dog with an acute aversion to men who, to her, seemed to be wearing skirts. This included Arabs in traditional galabiyas, religious Jews in longish kaftans, and the Catholic priests from a nearby monastery in their long cassocks.

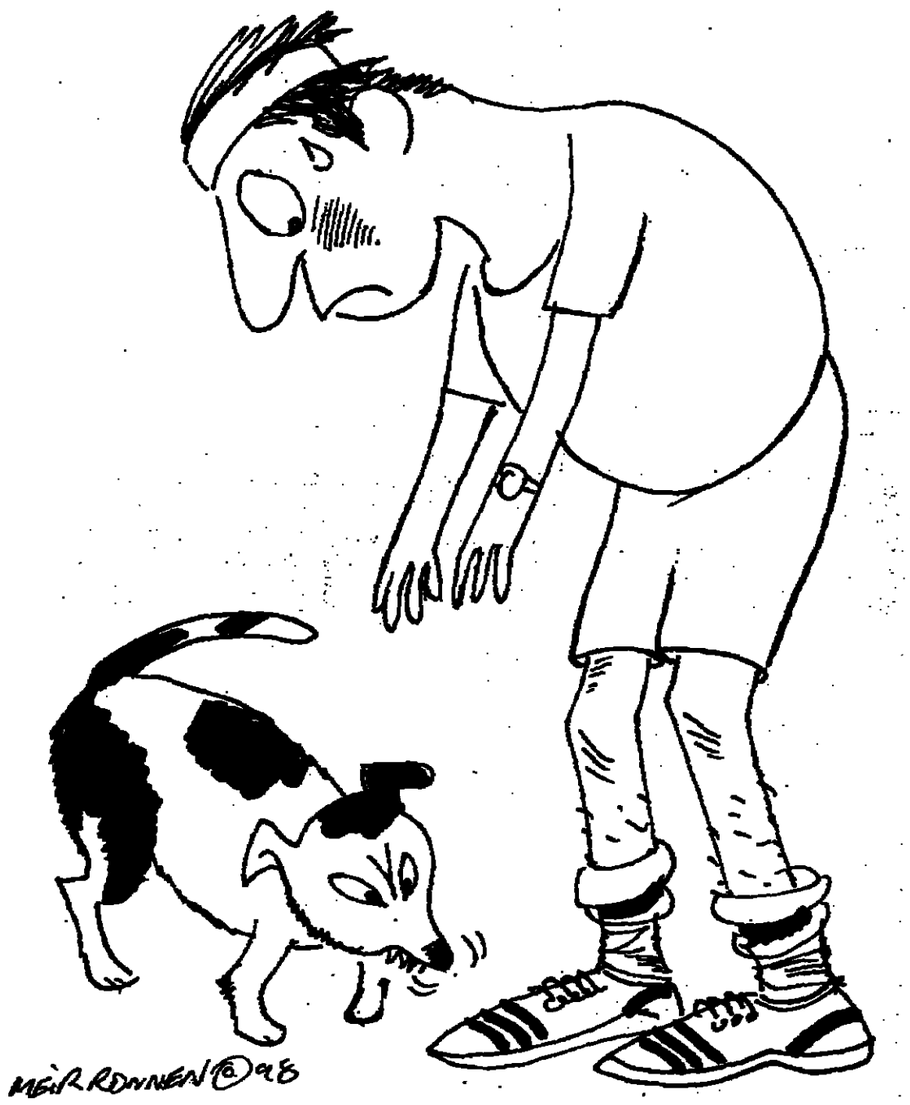
But, more than appearance, dogs rely on their super-keen sense of smell, a sense many, many times more developed than our own.

Now we may go about under the illusion that we don't smell – but to a dog every human being is a highly odoriferous bundle.

First and foremost, each of us has his or her own very distinctive and personal odor, a product of our metabolism and glandular secretions. Added to that we all have an ambient odor comprised of the food we eat, the soap we use, the laundry powder, shoe polish, shaving cream, toothpaste, deodorant and a number of other factors.

There are slight variations in this ambient odor but, by and large, people who live the same type of life and purchase basically the same products will smell more or less the same to a dog.

But when that dog is faced with a group of people who use totally different spices in their food, cook it in a different way, and use unfamiliar products, there is a difference – and the dog knows it.



And to a dog, difference is usually unwelcome.

Then there is behavior. Sometimes people who walk unusually fast or slowly seem different to the dog. So may someone who talks in an unfamiliar cadence.

IT IS hard to know just what labels a particular group. Almost all dogs hate the mail carrier, and a number of years ago this also applied to the milkman, the dry-cleaner's pick-up man and the paper boy.

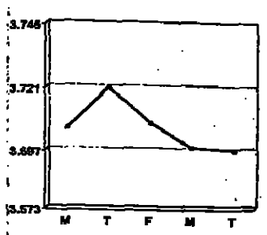
But if you look at it from the dog's viewpoint, it isn't so strange.

These are all people who came regularly to the house, but were never admitted. Suspicious, no?

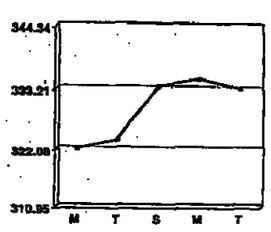
My own dog saves her frenzy for the unfortunate man who comes to read the electricity meter in the box outside my door. What, she must wonder, can be be up to?

MARKETS in brief

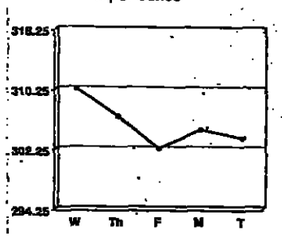
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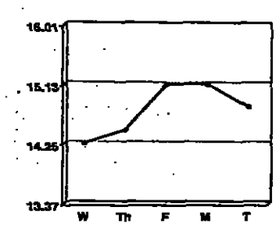
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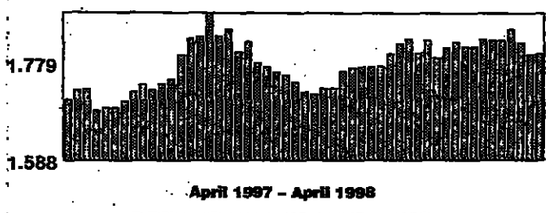
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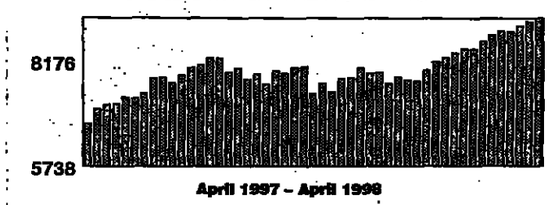


DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



April 1997 – April 1998

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April 1997 – April 1998

UBS and SBC win clearance for $33b. merge

Swiss Bank Corp. and Union Bank of Switzerland won Swiss approval for their $33 billion merger on condition they sell 35 of their 550 Swiss branches.

UBS and SBC can now set about their plan to eliminate 7,000 jobs at home, where the new UBS AG will have a market share of more than 30 percent, almost twice that of rival Credit Suisse Group. *Bloomberg*

Israir, Open Sky purchase 27% of Flying Carpet

Israir and Open Sky have acquired 27 percent of the shares of Flying Carpet for $2.2 million. Flying Carpet, the second largest charter wholesaler in Israel, is owned by Yaron Miller. Israir flies between Tel Aviv and Eilat, has acquired the rights to operate a similar line to Mahanaim and Kiryat Shmona, and plans to operate international charter flights. Open Sky is general sales agent for 27 foreign airlines and plans to operate a similar agency in Greece together with Manos. *Haim Shapiro*

Work accidents down 13% at IAI

Work accidents at Israel Aircraft Industries have decreased by 13 percent during 1997, the result of an intensified effort to improve conditions at the government company, executives said yesterday.

In 1997, IAI reported 274 work-related accidents, a decrease of 300 during the previous year.

The decrease in accidents has also resulted in a 19% drop in the number of work hours lost because of injuries — from 37,500 in 1996 to 30,400 last year. *Steve Rodan*

Tower Semiconductor moves into red

RESULTS

By DAN GERSTENFELD

One month after issuing a profit warning, Tower Semiconductor yesterday announced a net loss of $1.4 million for the first quarter of 1998, compared with net income of $4.4 m. in the first and fourth quarter of 1997.

The Migdal Ha'emek-based company said that sales for the first quarter decreased to $23.2m. from $29.1m. in the corresponding period in 1997.

Last month the company said the first-quarter sales and earnings will be below analysts' expectations and that it predicts that it will continue to lose money in the second quarter.

Since then, Tower's shares traded on Nasdaq plunged some 27 percent to $9 1/4 per share. At the beginning of the trading day in New York yesterday, the shares lost another 6%.

Yoav Nissan-Cohen, Tower's co-CEO, attributed the decline to a reduction in orders.

He said that the company anticipates the loss in the second quarter will be approximately $0.40 per share compared with $0.13 per share at the first quarter.

Last month, IBM, Compac Computer and Intel said that the second quarter should be the low point this year for the PC industry as the once-booming world chip market slows.

Intel, the world's largest chipmaker, said two weeks ago it will cut 4.4% of its work force because of weak sales.

Nissan-Cohen said that despite the decline in revenues,

Tower continued its increased funding for research and development programs, with spending for R&D in the first quarter increasing 63.5% to $2.14m.

ECI net surges 30%

ECI Telecom yesterday announced that net income for the first quarter of 1998 rose 30 percent to $38.3 compared to $29.4 a year earlier. Following the announcement ECI shares, which are traded on Nasdaq, surged 5% to $31 5/8 per share.

The Petah Tikva-based manufacturer of digital telecommunications equipment also reported that sales increased 15% to $184.1 million from $160.1m. in the corresponding period in 1996.

David Rubner, ECI's president and CEO, said the company expects 1998 to be a "productive year." He added that marketing activity was very strong, resulting in a contract worth $19m. to supply a large metropolitan network in Russia and a new Brazilian joint venture.

Rubner also said that the company expects to announce more "exciting new products" in the course of the year.

Indigo reduces losses

Indigo yesterday reported that it took another step toward the black by lowering first-quarter net losses by 87 percent to $2.3 million, compared with $17.8m. a year ago. At the same time, revenues for the same period rose 73% to $35.7m. from $20.6m.

The beleaguered company said that sales of products and services in the US and Europe, which are its primary markets, rose 8% in comparison to the last quarter of 1996.

Benny Landa, Indigo's chairman and CEO, said that the improvement seen in 1997 continued this year, despite expectations for a reduction in sales to the Far East. He added that he was encouraged by the improved performance of the company's US operations, which led to the highest income rates in over two years.

A restructuring plan announced last year resulted in the dismissal of Wayland Hicks, who served as president and CEO of the company, and Frank Steenburgh, who served as president of Indigo America, due to poor sales in North America.

Based in the Netherlands, Indigo develops and manufactures a line of short-run printers. The company has wholly owned subsidiaries in Israel and the US.

Yehezkel slams gov't on energy reform

By DAVID HARRIS

The government has no concrete policies or direction for shaping the future of the nation's energy sector, Knesset Economics Committee Chairman Avi Yehezkel (Labor) said yesterday.

Speaking during a debate on proposed reforms to the gas station industry, Yehezkel pledged to urgently introduce legislation aimed at separating the Haifa and Ashdod refineries into distinct companies and then to push for a decision on the nature of natural gas imports, from where they will come and who will be responsible for their distribution inside Israel.

"I'm extremely angry; there's no leadership from the government," said Yehezkel.

On Monday evening the Israel Lands Administration approved a series of measures aimed at speeding up the establishment of 150 new gas stations across the country.

This is in line with the Treasury's latest proposals for rapidly improving the transport infrastructure as part of a wider program aimed at encouraging economic growth and reducing unemployment.



Avi Yehezkel (Alon Ron/Israel Sun)



Ariel Sharon (Isaac Harari)

Meanwhile, British Gas International this week said it has offered to supply natural gas through a pipeline from Egypt. The proposal is included in a letter addressed to National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon from Lord Young, the former chairman of the British-based telecommunications company Cable and Wireless, which owns 10.02 percent of Bezeq.

Young, who now represents British Gas, said the company has long been interested in developing a gas market in Israel, based on its offshore acreage in North Sinai, which he argues is "clearly the most economic gas supply."

He added that the company believes in the potential of the Israeli market.

Jan. - April tax revenues up 0.3%

By DAVID HARRIS

State revenues from taxation rose 0.3 percent to NIS 37.5 billion in the first four months of the year, in comparison to the same period 12 months ago, according to figures the Treasury released yesterday.

While the data does show an improvement, the sums being collected are still well down on Treasury expectations, according to ministry sources.

In the coming days, the Finance Ministry will publish its latest economic forecast for 1998, including a reestimation of the likely income from taxes.

Receipts from income and land taxation showed a 1.7% rise in the first four months to NIS 21b. While income tax revenues were up, land taxes showed a 12% fall. Over the last two months this decline has bottomed out, according to the Treasury.

Imports and VAT contributed NIS. 15.6b. to state coffers, down 1% on the same period last year.

There has been a 0.8% increase in the various other fees paid since the turn of the year.

Meanwhile, the Treasury reported a 22.1% increase in the number of vehicles imported in April, compared to the 9,630 in the same month last year.

China seeking more Israeli investments

By NINA GILBERT

China is calling on Israeli companies to boost their efforts to enter the Chinese market, according to the Industry and Trade Ministry, which hosted a delegation of Chinese trade officials this week.

"The policy of the Chinese government is now to encourage more and more foreign investment in China, and Israeli businessmen are most welcome," according to an official at the Chinese Embassy. He said China's main priority is infrastructure investment.

"Conditions for foreign investment in China have improved with the reunification of Hong Kong with the motherland," he said. "Hong Kong is a financial center that facilitates business activities and also the availability of information."

"The Chinese are trying to open up more. They are searching for technology and companies to invest there. Israeli technologies are seen as suitable for China," noted Aryeh Lev, an official in the ministry's Foreign Trade Administration.

The sides agreed that the joint Israel-China trade committee is to meet at the end of the year in China.

The delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Yang Wen Sheng, noted that there is great interest in China in Israeli technology.

The Chinese officials said they were most interested in cooperation with Israeli companies in the fields of medical technology, agriculture, electronics and telecommunications. The Chinese Foreign Trade Ministry is to set up teams in each area to find joint ventures with Israeli companies.

The Israeli delegation to the trade talks will include businessmen from those sectors. The ministry said it has started gathering offers from Israeli companies for joint ventures in China in the aim of holding meetings between the sides during the visit.

Both sides agreed that the level of trade falls far short of the vast potential.

Bilateral trade rose 43 percent in the first quarter of the year, totaling some $88 million.

CUBA

Continued from Page 8

During dinner, Castro asked Tamayo, "What have you done since the revolution?"

"I became a cosmonaut and was the flight engineer for Soyuz 38 and spent eight days in space," he explained. "I would like to be like John Glenn and return to space."

He added dryly, "I will not shine shoes again."

When I asked Castro about recent reports of the arrest of dissidents, he denied them, saying, "Why would I do something like that after the pope's visit, not to mention that my foreign minister is going to Rome for more discussions?"

When I talked with dissidents and with the State Department, they confirmed Castro's statement.

He expressed concern about a string of bombing attacks last summer on Cuban tourist hotels, which Cuban authorities allege were organized by persons outside of Cuba.

He denied any involvement in the drug trade and spoke forcefully about drug trafficking in the region and its effects. He said he wanted very much to develop a closer working relationship with the US and other Caribbean nations to combat the drug trade.

Our conversation went on until 2:30 in the morning. After rum and cigars, the evening ended. We had been talking for 8 1/2hours.

On the steps outside, Castro said, perhaps more to himself than to me, "Do you think the US will ever treat Cuba as it treats other nations, with a relationship based on mutual respect, not ideology?"

I didn't have an answer to that question.

FULL DIPLOMATIC recognition between the two countries is politically impossible at the moment, but there are a number of steps that can and should be taken.

The measures announced in February by President Bill Clinton permitting direct flights and allowing Cuban Americans to send money back home are useful steps.

Trade for humanitarian goods such as food and medicine should be authorized. Contacts should be initiated to deal with the drug shipments passing through the Caribbean. Confidence-building measures to reduce the possibility of a military incident should be conducted on a regular basis.

In short, the militarized fence line at Guantanamo that I walked 35 years ago has outlived its usefulness. It is time to start dismantling some of the barriers between the peoples of the US and Cuba.

(Washington Post)

The writer is a retired Marine Corps general.

Correction

Unlike what may have been learned from our April 29 story on the subject, the Bank of Israel says Governor Jacob Frenkel was fully informed of, and party to, those parts of the foreign-currency reform which were unveiled on April 28. The Bank of Israel stresses that it is not meant to be part of the taxation planning and legislation process which accompany the liberalization reform.



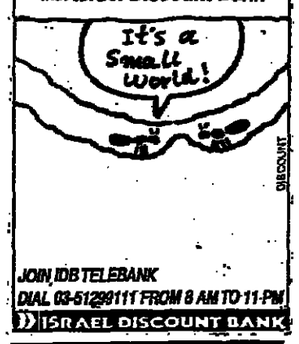
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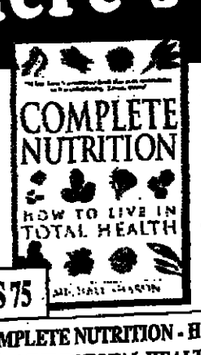
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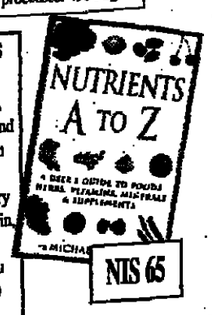


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THE BUSINESS SCENE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



US Senator Mike DeWine from Ohio, has been elected co-chairman with Labor MK Rafi Eitul of the Joint Commission on the American Promenade in Israel. Located at the gateway to Jerusalem, the American Promenade will be a national park consisting of 50 large marble monuments bearing the flags and official seals of the 50 states of the United States of America. Commitments from 18 states have been received to date, but only two – Alabama and Michigan – have already built theirs.

One of the Honorary Members of the Joint Commission is Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (center), who is pictured with Eitul (right) and Rabbi Eliot Sherman (left), the director of the project. Gingrich is expected to visit Israel this month to check out progress on the promenade.

Tommy Orpaz has joined Visiontech as marketing and sales manager for the European market. Orpaz, 50, is the first Visiontech representative to hold this position. Visiontech is an Israeli start-up company which focuses on multimedia. Prior to taking up his new post, Orpaz spent two years as marketing and sales manager for Oral-Net, which specializes in telephone, fax and Internet communications.

Meirav Riger-Grinker, 32, has been named chief buyer for Ace for those products which are not in the Do-it-Yourself category. She previously worked as chief buyer for Shekem and before that was deputy marketing manager for Vita.

Rehovot resident and US voting coordinator in Israel **David Froelich** has been honored by the Federal Voting Assistance Program of the United States of America in recognition of his work in getting US citizens resident in Israel to vote in US elections. In the last two US elections, 67 percent of eligible voters resident in Israel exercised their democratic right to vote. Froelich initiated and authored a Federal Post Card Application for absentee voters which became law in 1988.

Artist **Netta Dor**, who works at the Tel Aviv Museum and is currently exhibiting at the Mitzpe Hayamim hotel gallery and in three overseas exhibitions in Japan, Holland and Sweden, has won the Stockholm Art Addiction Gallery's gold medal in an international exhibition of women artists.

Prof. Eviatar Nevo, founder and director of the Institute of Evolution at Haifa University, has been elected a Foreign Member of the Ukraine Academy of Sciences. Nevo traveled to Kovno last month to accept the award, which was given to him in recognition of his substantial contribution to research in genetics, ecology, the evolution of microbes, fungi, plants and animals.

Avinoam Hadass has been selected as strategic adviser and public relations consultant to AFI, a member of the Yitzhak Tshuva America Israel Investments group of companies which is currently marketing 1,700 residential units in Israel alone.

Prof. Stanley Fisher, deputy chief of the International Monetary Fund, will receive an honorary doctorate at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. The doctorate will be awarded within the framework of the annual meeting of the University's Board of Governors, which will be held toward the end of this month.

TRANSPORT MINISTRY

Egged billions may not benefit public

By NINA GILBERT

Billions of shekels in government aid was promised to Egged to implement structural changes without studying whether the investment would benefit the public, the comptroller said.

Under the 10-year agreement signed with Egged in 1996, the transport company is to make structural changes, including establishing a holding company which owns two companies – one for public transport and the other for special services, which is to go public on the stock exchange by the year 2000.

According to the agreement, Egged is to take efficiency measures and accept a 2 percent reduction in aid for inputs beginning in 1997, while receiving an extra NIS 119 million annually in government aid. Before the company goes public it is to receive another NIS 113m. annually, to ensure the success of the offering, and when the holding company is floated on the stock exchange, the government is to cover NIS 811m. in bank debts.

According to the comptroller, the Treasury would be giving Egged an extra NIS 2.75 billion in funding under the agreement.

Part of the funding is to cover Egged's cumulative debt up to the end of 1994, although the causes of this debt were not checked, according to the comptroller. Egged's failure over the years to provide proper balance sheets to the government, despite its promise to do so under a 1989 recovery plan, made it impossible to determine the cause of the debt.

The new agreement was signed in February 1996 and was made effective from January, even though the prevailing recovery plan only expired at the end of August 1996. No explanation for advancing the agreement was found, and the state comptroller found it suspicious.

There was also no linkage between the government payments and the opening of the sector to competition.

The comptroller also faulted the government, represented by the Transport Ministry and the Finance Ministry's budget department, for the manner in which negotiations on the agreement were held.

No protocols were taken of the discussions, no record was made of agreements reached by the sides and no calculations were found as to the cost of the agreement and the utility to the country from the agreement.

FINANCE MINISTRY

Israel-PA tax payments system must be tightened

By DAVID HARRIS

The system for controlling the collection of fees and taxes for transfer to the Palestinian Authority are "inefficient and incomplete," the comptroller said.

In January 1997, an assessment office was established to monitor tax issues relating to Palestinians working in Israel. At the time of the investigation (mid-1997) it was discovered that the office was still not fully operating.

One reason, the comptroller says, is that the Income Tax and Property Tax Commission failed to correctly define the role of the office and did not set up procedures for monitoring its work.

As a result of these and other problems in the system, by the time of the investigation, only 2,000 taxpayers had opened files, with their total earning power in 1996 at NIS 105 million. These workers registered principally to gain approval for tax credits.

Of the 2,000, only 200 had filed tax returns for 1995 and a few dozen had received visits from assessors.

The report also calls for the tightening of regulations in various areas of income tax payment.

The comptroller's checked advance-payment procedures in five income tax assessment offices – Gush Dan, Ashkelon, Hadera, and Tel Aviv offices 1 and 4.

The investigation revealed the the collection department was not ensuring the offices were tracking down those failing to make correct advance payments.

In response, the tax commission promised that as of January 1 this year the situation would improve.

Ben-Porat also writes that the commission does not diligently investigate cases where a company's estimate of its activities in any year are obviously inaccurate. The commission said it will look to further computerization to allow for closer scrutiny of estimates.

The comptroller said that workers in the five assessment offices do not go into the field often enough, and are particularly lax with regard to the construction industry.

Furthermore, the report states that forms to be filled in relating to property gains tax do not request enough details.

Treasury not cracking down on Clalit

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Treasury has for years complained about waste, extravagant spending and inefficiency in the health system. But the state comptroller finds that the Finance Ministry has been negligent in supervising expenditures in the system – and especially those of Kupat Holim Clalit, which insures two-thirds of the population.

During the past decade, the government has signed a number of recovery agreements with the health fund, whose debts accumulated over the years due to inadequate management and the fact that it insures many poor, elderly and chronically ill members.

These agreements were supposed to have eliminated operational deficits and gradually to reduce its accumulated debts.

But the Treasury, said the comptroller, did not see to it that the recovery plans were fully implemented and thus they didn't bring about their hoped-for results. Consequently, the deficits grew, and the public purse was required to subsidize the health fund.

At the end of 1994, just before the national health insurance system was launched, a new recovery program was signed that streamlined the health fund's budget in detail. On the basis of the agreement, the Treasury transferred NIS 900 million to Clalit to cover 88 percent of its deficit for 1994; it also agreed to pay an additional NIS 2 billion (in 1993 shekels) to cover part of the cumulative debt.

After additional negotiations, it was agreed that the Treasury would pay NIS 2.8b. (in 1995 shekels) as an updated final figure. But the comptroller found that the Treasury lacked documents that detailed the negotiations between the two sides and the arrangements made before the NIS 2.8b. figure was set.

The Histadrut, which previously owned Clalit, has failed to pay the NIS 564m. it owes the health fund, including the cost of compensation for staffers who took early retirement. By the end of 1995, the labor federation had paid part of the debt, but it failed to transfer properties to Clalit to cover the rest of it.

The health fund had agreed to sell these properties, totaling at least NIS 20m. annually over five years, so the government would not have to subsidize it to such an extent. But the Treasury did not force the Histadrut and the health fund to do this.

When the health insurance system came into effect, extra allocations of health taxes to Clalit because of its medically expensive membership population were supposed assure the fund a balanced budget.

But health fund expenditures continued to grow, partly due to marketing and advertising campaigns and largely because of the construction of many new community clinics. So now the government again has to bail out the health fund, which remains dependent on the public purse.

Securities Authority wastes money

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Securities Authority (SA) enjoys too much leeway with its budget, and Finance Ministry supervision isn't tight enough, leading to waste, the comptroller found.

According to the report, the body, which is in charge of taking care of investors' interests, has no procedures concerning changes to its budget during the year. It is not required to prepare an annual report for the Finance Ministry.

Moreover, requests for changes in the authority's budget are not submitted to the Knesset Finance Committee and the Treasury, as required by law.

The comptroller found that in several cases requests to change the budget were made six months after the year had ended, after the money was already spent.

The SA, in 1996, spent some NIS 1 million on vacations for its workers, members and their families without giving proper explanations for this in its budget. The paying for members' expenses continued in 1997, despite the approval of a new appendix to the SA law prohibiting such acts.

The SA chairman was given a credit card with no stipulations set out for its use, not even a limit on spending.

The authority has for years been holding on to excessive sums of money, which were held in bonds and deposits. It was never decided what to do with the money, or whether part of it should be transferred to the state budget.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	yield 1998 (%)	NIS assets (millions)
FLEXIBLE					
Abir	235.80	235.08	+ 1.46	+8.73	19.7
Adar Flexible	106.19	106.67	+ 1.04	+6.31	29.0
Allfinn Flexible	211.13	208.25	+ 0.49	+0.99	20.8
Ahrayut Flexible	547.03	537.39	+ 2.88	+7.09	3.2
Alomot Flexible	110.12	109.25	+ 1.95	—	8.6
Analyst Diversified	786.20	771.06	+ 2.00	+8.56	69.8
Apex Flexible	182.33	181.76	+ 1.98	+ 17.12	19.5
Arximedes	116.38	114.07	+ 5.32	+ 21.60	0.4
Avuka	2024.56	2018.13	+ 2.38	+8.16	6.0
Bloch Rotstein Flexible	240.36	235.48	+ 2.71	+ 13.93	31.2
Cial Flexible	1211.84	1208.18	+ 1.88	+5.56	5.6
Dikla Mamon	293.68	291.43	+ 2.80	+ 10.54	26.7
Dikla Meirav	199.43	198.70	+ 3.20	+ 10.47	12.8
Dikla Meked	3565.70	3539.43	+ 2.03	+5.99	79.3
Dovrat Shiram Flexible	185.56	181.81	+ 1.73	+2.15	44.7
Emda Idit	4329.42	4281.33	+ 2.98	+8.34	34.0
Epsilon Flexible	173.06	172.53	+ 3.12	+ 11.02	8.0
Evergreen Flexible	129.75	128.58	+ 1.33	+5.73	10.3
Excellence Flexible	3230.56	3187.80	+ 2.82	+ 10.22	8.0
Igud Bonds	105.50	104.97	+ 0.64	+0.89	12.2
Igud Flexible	174.36	173.25	+ 2.37	+7.80	24.6
Igud Shiklit	137.62	137.62	+ 0.48	+5.48	214.8
Ilanot 30 Plus	167.57	164.62	+ 2.98	+7.57	4.1
Ilanot 90	275.29	270.41	+ 3.05	+7.80	29.7
Ilanot Tidhar	3499.52	3481.87	+ 2.20	+7.74	77.9
Kivun Flexible	134.37	133.11	+ 2.49	+ 10.14	7.7
Lahak Duhifat	794.23	792.07	+ 2.46	+8.07	71.9
Lamashkia	—	—	—	—	6.0
Legal	1692.56	1892.56	+ 2.85	+5.48	6.5
Maofim Bonds	101.52	100.84	+ 0.34	—	—
Maofim Flexible	174.06	170.83	+ 1.02	+ 24.29	11.2
Maritime Flexible Fund	107.61	105.61	+ 3.35	+ 16.67	9.0
Meitav Flexible	173.32	171.51	+ 2.13	+8.95	3.3
Melanium	113.35	111.63	+ 1.90	+ 10.18	0.9
Models Shkuta	114.04	111.73	+ 2.37	+0.72	9.7
Models Teuza	105.02	102.81	+ 2.85	+8.55	4.3
Moritz Money Market	137.75	137.75	+ 0.30	+4.47	22.8
Nesua Flexible	2761.14	2742.75	+ 2.50	+6.73	12.0
Netz	118.30	117.78	+ 5.64	-3.81	0.5
Noga	915.21	903.55	+ 1.06	+5.97	45.2
Omer Pekan	212.94	209.24	+ 2.39	+3.45	24.0
Otzar Flexible	106.07	104.26	+ 2.43	+4.95	5.3
Pia Hayovel	226.03	226.76	+ 2.89	+ 13.34	29.2
Pia Kela	958.82	954.05	+ 2.46	+ 6.10	314.4
Psagot Gamish	843.51	832.11	+ 3.02	+ 11.72	158.9
Psagot Megama	379.63	376.64	+ 2.78	+ 12.87	94.9
Ramco Flexible	180.47	178.23	+ 1.82	+5.84	7.1
Saar Flexible	236.21	233.02	+ 2.73	+7.92	5.5
Saar Pekan	204.75	204.13	+ 2.50	+6.42	186.0
Sigma Flexible	109.03	107.94	+ 3.37	+8.11	9.8
Sivan	298.97	295.04	+ 3.06	+ 13.18	71.8
Telescope	127.18	126.77	+ 5.38	+0.65	4.0
Yasiz Flexible	108.16	107.91	+ 1.86	+8.16	3.6
Yesodot	3269.40	3231.19	+ 1.88	+6.87	41.6
Zeiler Flexible	92.31	91.30	+ 2.65	-1.80	3.1
Zion Flexible	17236.94	17126.04	+ 6.05	+ 21.43	3.5
SHARES					
Adif Pekan	121.18	119.05	+ 2.11	-3.59	62.6
Afikim Shares	297.24	293.14	+ 0.72	+5.87	18.7
Ahrayut Oil & Shares	144.94	142.05	+ 1.55	-7.83	1.9
Ahrayut Real Estate	233.07	228.37	+ 3.07	+3.48	10.2
Ahrayut Shares	356.74	350.42	+ 2.94	+6.57	4.3
Analyst Aggressive	186.28	182.43	+ 2.31	+8.93	57.3
Analyst Equity	1300.58	1271.04	+ 1.74	+9.39	149.8
Analyst Industries	400.04	390.92	+ 1.79	+8.14	59.5
Apex Shares	120.01	119.47	+ 2.81	+ 19.87	12.5
Atlas Pekan	—	—	—	—	35.8
Baron	240.93	240.19	+ 2.63	+ 11.43	12.3
Bloch Rotstein Shares	129.35	120.89	+ 2.67	+ 21.07	3.4
Capital Shares	106.43	105.06	+ 5.67	+ 15.17	4.0
Chemical Pekan	125.60	123.40	+ 1.48	+5.22	9.0
Cial Maof	267.28	265.50	+ 3.17	+8.56	26.4
Cial Shares & Conv.	162.08	161.56	+ 2.21	+8.94	2.9
Dikla Maagul	114.36	113.48	+ 3.40	+9.81	15.9
Dikla Madad Maof	229.30	226.99	+ 3.14	+9.26	65.7
Dikla Meretz	581.11	576.62	+ 3.55	+ 10.16	68.0
Dikla Mifan	124.84	123.85	+ 3.56	+1.68	55.1
Dikla Migzar Finance	141.01	139.93	+ 1.55	+ 12.11	33.2
Dikla Mitud 30	77.39	77.37	+ 3.70	+7.38	42.1
Dikla Mivtah	355.36	352.59	+ 3.11	-1.19	35.0
Dikla Mondial	—	—	—	—	14.4
Dikla Mor	1709.88	1696.32	+ 3.45	+8.87	101.5
Dovrat Shiram 100	122.00	119.49	+ 3.29	+9.14	25.2
Dovrat Shirem Yeter	135.77	132.88	+ 2.91	+6.88	18.6
Emda Export	93.43	92.48	+ 3.82	+8.34	11.8
Emda High Tech	—	—	—	—	9.1
Emda Maof	238.84	235.06	+ 3.08	+8.97	48.9
Emda Paz	201.19	199.04	+ 3.35	+9.85	13.4
Emda Shaltevet	181.82	180.26	+ 3.49	+ 12.40	15.8
Emda TA 100	2245.41	2220.71	+ 3.59	+ 10.52	56.9
Emda Yeter	1746.96	1727.97	+ 3.58	+4.59	26.1
Epsilon 36	117.76	117.35	+ 2.77	+ 16.15	20.4
Epsilon Shares	209.25	208.47	+ 3.13	+ 13.56	15.8
Erez Pekan	369.23	362.82	+ 3.51	+9.97	168.4
Esh	656.52	643.66	+ 3.96	+7.07	2.6
Evergreen High Tech	—	—	—	—	12.8
Evergreen Shares	173.90	172.33	+ 1.41	+7.55	23.5
Excellence Agressive	276.63	273.50	+ 2.94	+ 14.76	9.8
Excellence Shares	666.38	662.54	+ 4.07	+ 15.54	7.2
Eyal Shares	150.03	150.03	+ 3.83	+ 11.41	7.9
Gal	126.95	124.32	+ 3.35	+8.58	16.3
Hon Pekan	121.48	121.12	+ 2.15	+8.85	81.3
Igud Maof	102.66	102.67	+ 2.87	+8.26	15.2
Igud Shares	160.80	159.77	+ 2.81	+8.97	19.3
Igud Yeter	116.56	114.85	+ 2.94	+5.97	17.4
Ilanot Caramim	177.06	175.70	+ 2.52	+6.02	110.0
Ilanot Communication	125.52	124.85	+ 3.80	+ 15.57	77.4
Ilanot Dekel	3485.78	3434.39	+ 3.28	+9.63	110.2
Ilanot Finance	106.09	105.54	+ 2.15	+ 11.45	15.7
Ilanot Globe	—	—	—	—	14.8
Ilanot Maof	224.96	223.91	+ 3.13	+9.51	63.3
Ilanot Nadlan	1505.29	1493.67	+ 2.18	—	35.1
Ilanot Nimrazet	93.24	92.53	+ 4.09	-8.06	7.7
Ilanot Shares	5519.94	5423.98	+ 2.84	+7.91	10.7
Ilanot Shchakim	64.16	63.03	+ 3.43	+8.92	20.7
Ilanot Sheelk	1002.63	985.02	+ 2.50	+7.98	137.1
Ilanot T-A 100	3082.23	3056.11	+ 3.23	+ 10.38	78.2
Israel America	—	—	—	—	1.4
Kohav Pekan	186.39	185.81	+ 3.80	+ 11.90	109.2
Koor Money Market	131.68	131.68	+ 0.52	+6.00	90.0
Koor Shares	108.30	106.92	+ 2.94	+ 15.15	4.5
Lahak Agressivt Plus	95.95	94.28	+ 3.92	+7.72	29.0
Lahak Ankor	976.08	956.98	+ 4.03	+ 12.68	42.0
Lahak Dividends	380.28	360.26	+ 2.73	+ 17.12	22.2
Lahak Menayot Yeter	123.88	122.91	+ 2.65	+8.16	55.4
Lahak Nadlan	137.08	134.66	+ 3.98	+4.48	40.9
Lahak TA-Wall Street	—	—	—	—	21.8
Lahak Tor 100	478.82	470.37	+ 3.87	+9.59	86.7
Lahak Yetsu	87.28	87.04	+ 2.88	+ 16.97	39.1
Lahak Zamir	948.97	932.09	+ 3.61	+ 14.45	69.9
Masle Maof Pekan	205.42	201.80	+ 3.08	+7.71	79.7
Magic	278.85	273.72	+ 0.81	+4.92	10.7
Meitav Options	52.80	51.98	+ 5.97	+ 24.95	9.2
Meitav Shares	230.19	227.75	+ 3.36	+ 11.45	4.7
Meitav Teuza	124.47	123.14	+ 2.82	+ 12.32	8.9
Mercazit Caram Maniv	72.80	72.58	+ 2.95	+8.39	3.5
Mercazit Maof	213.27	212.74	+ 3.43	+8.38	2.4
Mercazit TA 100	283.32	282.47	+ 3.41	+8.35	3.2
Mertingasl Dynamic	110.78	110.68	+ 1.77	+ 10.85	10.0
Nechia Continental	64.50	63.15	+ 2.37	+ 10.19	17.5
Nesua Shares	496.70	493.21	+ 2.83	+ 10.08	10.1
NIS TA 100	1114.88	1100.45	+ 3.46	+7.89	21.7
Omega	125.92	123.70	+ 0.72	+1.28	2.4
Otzar Foreign Int. Par.	154.50	154.50	- 2.69	+8.97	2.3
Otzar Shares	119.94	117.86	+ 2.74	+5.77	6.8
Otzar Yeter	91.22	89.63	+ 2.32	+2.29	6.3
Pekan T-A 100	174.00	173.51	+ 3.18	+7.68	63.6
Pia 2000	105.19	104.64	+ 2.15	+ 14.50	27.5
Pia Bdolach T-A 100	1111.07	1091.56	+ 3.73	+8.43	93.0
Pia Manof	154.42	151.69	+ 3.93	+ 17.23	49.9
Pia Maof	218.36	214.50	+ 3.48	+9.56	99.8
Pia Michlol	849.04	834.22	+ 2.99	+7.43	137.6
Pia Odem	1318.70	1311.58	+ 3.35	+ 11.40	171.3
Pia Olamit	—	—	—	—	36.4
Pia Yahalom	1157.31	1146.66	+ 2.55	+ 10.49	73.8
Pia Zinuk	71.68	70.41	+ 2.12	+ 12.71	46.2
Pritza	—	—	—	—	0.8
Psagot Al	94.98	94.46	+ 5.18	+ 10.99	39.0
Psagot Focus	125.00	122.78	+ 3.95	+ 13.44	117.9
Psagot High Tech	—	—	—	—	84.7
Psagot Kesem	209.10	205.38	+ 3.24	+ 11.13	70.7
Psagot Mabat Lashalom	149.87	147.22	+ 3.17	+ 15.42	45.7
Psagot Menayot	854.84	849.67	+ 3.12	+ 13.73	182.3
Psagot T-A 100	427.10	424.77	+ 2.77	+ 16.14	188.5
Raam 90	163.13	156.89	+ 5.77	+8.92	6.9
Simodan Shares & Conv.	87.05	85.74	+ 2.49	+5.62	0.6
Singer Barnea Finandal	124.56	122.36	+ 3.14	+9.08	0.6
Singer Barnea Shmura	158.10	157.63	+ 2.29	+ 11.01	2.8
Tsurot Sufa	164.85	164.00	+ 2.82	+ 14.19	22.7
Yaar	47.18	46.97	+ 6.24	-5.76	0.3
Zik	371.29	370.26	+ 3.00	+5.17	5.0
Zion Caram	97.97	97.59	+ 2.47	-3.18	10.8
Zion Shares	161.78	160.76	+ 3.53	+8.01	3.8
STATE BONDS					
Ahrayut State Bonds	450.07	444.73	+ 0.06	+1.88	5.1
Almog Pekan	287.63	282.54	+ 0.62	-3.03	123.5
Analyst Government Bonds	400.54	396.41	+ 0.49	+0.90	33.3
Cial Doban	1249.64	1246.43	+ 0.55	+1.02	5.0
Cial State Bonds	483.80	482.56	+ 0.71	+0.97	8.3
Dikla Marom	6381.87	6346.17	+ 0.73	+3.55	35.2
Dikla Mivtah	1751.80	1738.98	+ 0.55	+4.31	35.4
Ducas	254.27	249.86	+ 0.26	+1.96	15.2
Emda Goverment Bond	1078.65	1070.46	+ 0.09	-2.54	50.6
Emda Lesham	1440.93	1426.77	+ 0.67	-1.55	28.8
Emda Sella	1414.50	1403.81	+ 0.91	+3.08	49.4
Epsilon Gov't Bonds	210.40	209.72	+ 1.13	+5.76	14.1
Geva	414.46	409.35	+ 0.72	+1.54	86.9
Hila Pekan	541.75	541.75	+ 0.38	+1.27	179.7
Ilanot Egoz	1173.80	1165.07	+ 0.46	-3.13	51.0
Ilanot Gov't Bonds	2459.89	2443.32	+ 0.86	+3.67	2.8
Ilanot Tapuah	673.59	670.29	+ 0.54	-2.09	29.0
Ilanot Tapuz	1090.94	1082.85	+ 0.50	+1.06	99.0
Lahak Eitoni	543.83	542.39	+ 0.49	-2.38	37.4
Lahak Shahal	153.52	150.85	+ 0.63	+2.98	51.7
Lahak Srunit	694.87	682.78	+ 0.23	+2.47	91.0
Maritime Government Bond	161.75	159.53	+ 1.17	+6.32	9.7
Meitav Gov't Bonds	122.56	121.59	+ 0.89	+3.64	10.5
Mekorit Pekan	118.03	115.96	+ 0.10	-1.25	18.8
Mercazit Gov't Bonds	159.37	156.20	+ 0.82	-3.16	7.3
Nesua Gov't Bonds	1384.75	1367.95	+ 0.75	+4.79	36.2
Otzar Gov't Bonds	153.91	151.28	+ 0.67	+1.04	14.1
Pia Conv' Bonds 50	241.84	241.35	+ 0.00	—	15.7
Pia Tarshish	141.26	138.78	+ 0.31	+0.47	261.4
Pia Zamid	4774.27	4690.31	+ 0.88	+0.80	161.7
Psagot Agach	599.69	598.07	+ 0.70	+5.23	50.4
Psagot Maala	440.68	437.23	+ 0.67	+2.62	52.3
Psagot Madad	565.57	555.56	+ 0.83	+0.84	89.0
Shavit Pekan	704.77	702.68	+ 0.26	+1.44	145.6
Sigma Gov't Bonds	137.95	136.28	+ 0.56	+1.50	1.6
Yaara Pekan	581.39	571.13	+ 0.35	-1.09	64.5
Yevul Pekan	762.84	739.54	+ 0.72	+0.29	168.3
Ziv	621.77	613.88	+ 0.26	+1.04	39.8
Zohar	517.25	510.71	+ 0.51	+1.65	37.6
COMPANY BONDS					
Afikim Bonds	328.42	324.01	- 0.26	-2.14	52.0
Ahrayut Bonds	194.89	191.52	+ 0.23	-1.49	7.5
Amirim	130.95	129.95	+ 0.37	+0.33	24.0
Analyst Corporate Bonds	290.77	285.63	+ 0.80	+1.60	93.6
Analyst Money Market	158.58	156.14	+ 0.48	+4.29	17.2
Apex Tsua	143.85	143.41	+ 0.62	+7.84	36.0
Bloch Rotstein Bonds	167.19	164.62	+ 0.40	+5.51	11.2
Bond	165.20	164.57	+ 0.62	+1.56	12.4
Capital Bonds	155.19	154.06	+ 1.26	+4.24	11.7
Cial Company Debentures	208.80	208.20	+ 0.44	+1.73	3.1
Cial Gen' Bond Rating	102.22	101.91	+ 0.12	—	12.6
Cial Zmira	178.68	178.68	+ 0.46	+4.92	73.4
Dikla Masyan	1007.65	1000.51	+ 0.54	+3.76	52.4
Dikla Magen Plus	102.50	102.50	+ 0.38	—	287.0
Dikla Maskoret Plus	145.90	145.90	+ 0.42	+4.86	286.2
Dikla Meirtzet	461.55	461.55	+ 0.68	+5.77	21.0
Dikla Mirvah	623.85	619.11	+ 0.74	+1.14	27.7
Dikla Mivhar	572.97	568.79	+ 0.26	+2.03	38.2
Dikla Nigvan	2075.78	2060.96	+ 1.13	+3.83	98.6
Dovrat Shirem Bonds	171.29	168.72	+ 0.87	+1.51	61.4
Emda Dynamit Magen	109.15	109.15	+ 0.65	+4.21	55.1
Emda Haitamish	169.05	167.36	+ 0.76	+1.77	19.0
Emda Hamtara	1147.20	1135.28	+ 1.07	+0.66	52.6
Emda Shikli	101.95	101.95	+ 0.39	+4.62	468.4
Emda Zuk	337.34	335.66	+ 0.71	-0.89	16.3
Epsilon Corp. Bonds	130.62	130.22	+ 1.72	+3.85	19.8
Epsilon Money Market	150.51	150.51	+ 0.47	+5.79	197.3
Evergreen Shkuola	157.95	157.04	+ 0.51	+2.80	34.5
Excellence Bonds	2134.90	2107.02	+ 0.77	+4.02	13.1
Eyal Corporate Bonds	148.30	148.77	+ 0.50	-1.05	8.9
Eyal Shotef	139.17	139.17	+ 0.55	+4.96	13.9
Guy	720.69	711.40	+ 1.20	+3.95	117.5
Hetz Pekan	805.42	805.42	+ 0.34	+4.47	831.1
I.B.I Shkalim	149.03	149.03	+ 0.57	+5.27	141.1
Igud Magen Shkuk	100.05	100.05	—	—	—
Ilanot Agas	143.67	143.67	+ 0.63	+1.01	38.7
Ilanot Alon	1988.29	1973.92	+ 0.44	+2.39	42.0
Ilanot Armon	143.87	142.89	+ 0.50	+1.30	28.1
Ilanot Conv'bonds	3150.36	3126.18	+ 0.54	+0.45	7.4
Ilanot Eshel	795.04	789.13	+ 0.94	+3.00	96.7
Ilanot Etrog	1069.25	1063.79	+ 0.72	+1.02	62.6
Ilanot Muvtahot	109.16	109.16	+ 0.88	+4.97	35.0
Ilanot Onan	4172.27	4151.13	+ 1.16	+3.17	137.8
Ilanot Orion	184.57	183.19	+ 0.62	+3.77	26.3
Ilanot Ramon	563.70	563.70	+ 0.49	+4.81	—
Ilanot Shahar	236.82	235.65	+ 0.27	+1.50	37.7
Ilanot Shaked	240.68	238.84	+ 0.39	+1.55	41.4
Ilanot Shkoda	169.40	168.04	+ 0.68	+3.35	82.2
Keshet Pekan	448.06	441.17	+ 0.18	-1.85	42.9
Koor Ammar Bonds	205.03	204.47	+ 0.10	—	10.5
Lahak Magen 95%	158.14	158.14	+ 0.45	+4.29	154.8
Lahak Shaldag	238.24	238.24	+ 0.47	-0.43	95.7
Lahak Yasoor	187.49	187.49	+ 0.40	+4.56	1647
Malkoit Pekan	329.88	329.80	+ 2.23	+3.28	34.5
Meitav Corp. Conv. Bonds	151.52	150.33	+ 0.82	+2.76	9.8
Meitav Money Market	118.99	118.99	+ 0.51	+5.05	3.3
Mercazit Conv. Bonds	460.96	459.63	+ 1.10	+3.54	3.6
Models Shmura	109.89	108.76	+ 0.75	+0.82	16.8
Nesua Corporate Bonds	184.91	183.90	+ 0.78	+1.08	15.1
Otzar Shkalim	132.92	132.92	+ 0.51	+4.83	97.9
Pia Hallfin	536.56	536.56	+ 0.44	+4.76	562.9
Pia Mogenet	107.85	107.85	+ 0.58	+5.87	84.0
Pia Ophir	604.41	601.26	+ 0.52	+2.13	99.8
Pia Or	1142.91	1122.72	+ 0.98	+1.82	118.4
Pia Seguia	282.14	277.20	+ 0.47	+2.17	45.0
Pia Shamir	1293.58	1270.77	+ 0.26	-1.77	119.5
Pia Shkalim Agif	107.26	107.26	+ 0.45	+6.73	453.2
Pia Truta	373.32	366.72	+ 0.75	-0.19	30.3
Pia Yozma	231.52	227.43	+ 0.78	-1.39	27.4
Pil	296.39	295.53	+ 1.29	+2.30	5.4
Psagot Hagana Plus	107.30	107.30	+ 1.07	+5.86	94.3
Psagot Kol Haga	230.35	230.35	+ 0.49	+5.10	1186
Psagot Teshlumim	106.33	104.48	+ 0.50	+3.74	28.7
Psagot Yeshra	614.89	604.12	+ 1.06	+4.43	196.5
Simodan Bonds	123.11	121.02	+ 0.38	-2.17	3.5
Simodan Interest	144.06	144.06	+ 0.22	+3.95	16.8
Tsuot Hen	173.13	172.33	+ 0.46	+2.79	26.3
Yaad	254.20	252.94

TEL AVIV 100
LEADING SHARES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Africa Hotels	393	-1.8
Africa Israel 0.1	29200	-0.4
Africa Israel 1	213000	-1.2
Agan	12330	-1.9
Agis	2600	-1.9
Al Paper Mills	12770	-0.5
Al-Rov	2670	2.6
Azorim	3180	-0.6
Azorim Prop.	2382	-0.4
Bank Leumi 0.1	818	-0.5
Bayan	854	0.1
Bayside 1	3090	-0.3
Bayside 5	41480	2.2
Bezeq	186000	2
Blue Square	1108	0.4
Brantex	4200	0
Clal Electronics	3400	-0.6
Clal Industries	58100	-0.2
Clal Insurance	2060	0
Clal Israel 1	4330	0.2
Dan Hotels	1114	-1
Delta	910	0
Delta Galil	2030	-1
Dexia	775	-3.2
Dead Sea Works 0.1	858	-0.9
Delek 0.1	15340	2
Delek Car	500	-1.3
Development Mort	26000	3.8
Discount Bank	439	-1.1
Discount Inv.	10810	1.1
Elbit 0.005	1176	-0.5
Elbit Imaging	2950	-3.4
Elbit system	5130	1
Elco	2140	1.4
Elco Industries	3700	0.5
Electra	15790	0.6
Electra App	1801	-3.1
Elite Ind. 1	2210	-2.7
Elite Ind. 5	11490	0.1
Elron 0.003	5730	0.4
FIBI 5	57200	-1.2
First Int'l 1	58200	-1.1
First Int'l 5	259800	-0.3
First Int'l Mort	53700	1.3
Formula	15210	-0.2
General Bank	11300	1.2
Granit Hacarmel	700	0
Hadarim Prop.	6300	1
Ham-Let	2560	0
Hapoalim 0.1	1036	0.4
Harel Mishmar 1	3620	0.5
Harel Mishmar 5	19000	0
I.D.B. Dev.	8640	-0.7
I.D.B. Holdings	8780	-0.9
IDC	23320	-0.4
Ind Bldgs	802	-2
Israel Chemicals	457	-0.7
Israel Corp. 1	24000	-0.8
Isrotel	686	1.8
Jacora	776	0.1
JCT	32.5	8.3
JEC	2020	-1.5
Kfar	391	-1.8
Knafaim	4250	0
Koor	47000	-1.9
Leader	1421	-2
Lesmi Insurance	230	-1.3
Leumi Mortgage	87000	-0.3
Lidaz	5100	-3.3
Makhteshim	2990	-2.3
Mamran	693	0
Matab	3640	-0.5
Mehadrin	12290	0.7
Mei Eden	1690	0
Melisseron	1028	-1
Menorah Ins. 1	1940	-1
Millenior	1898	0
Mishkan	84000	-0.8
Mivtahl Inv.	12260	0
NATSVA REGULAR	1290	0.8
Nice Systems	16030	-0.6
Ocil	7960	-0.5
Orbit	1983	5.2
Ormat Industries	485	0
Osem Industries	1598	-0.9
Petrochemicals	2100	1.9
Phoenix Ins. 1	6249	0
Poalim Ins.	12660	-1.9
Prop & Bldg	29500	1
Salt Industries	1939	1.5
Solel Bone	4360	-1.6
Supersol	1162	-1.9
Tadiran	14170	-3.5
Tambour	705	0
Telefrol	202000	1
Tempo	1342	0
Teva	16220	1
Urdan	278	-1.4
Wire and Cables	1430	-1.4
Ytong Industries	916	0

KARAM
SMALL CAPITALIZATION
TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Boulous GD	1395	0.8
Abgar	2.4	9.1
Abudi	48.7	-5
Ace-Spade	57	0
Ackerstein Bond B	181.5	8
Ackerstein Ind.	425	-2.1
Ackerstein Zvi 1	1495	10
Ackerstein Zvi 5	6343	10
adalom	36.5	0
Adanim	369940	-1
Adler	132	8.2
Advine	1.122	0
Advenim	181.5	-1.1
Africa Hotels Bond B	88	-0.3
Africa Hotels Warrant 2	42	0
Africa Hotels Warrant 3	2.8	0
Africa Israel Hotels Bond A	131	-0.4
Alesk Ind	778	0
Agis Warrant 3	20	-110
Agis Warrant 4	600	8.1
Agish Int'l	339	0
Agri Investments	276	0
Al-Ben	146.5	-0.3
Al-Ben Bond A	119	0
Alfie e2	109	-0.5
Alfie w6	182	-1.9
Alliance	763	0
Alonit	258	0
Alony-Hetz	550	2.4
Alony-Hetz Bond A	249	0
Alrod	208	-1
Alrod Warrant 1	8.7	0
Alrov Bond D	76.2	-1
Alrov Warrant 5	366	-5.2
Alumit	208	0
Alumit	4677	0
Amigar	185	-0.3
Amilec	227	2.7
Amirsel Warrant 1	12	0
Amnal	575	-0.3
Ampa Investments	1332337	1.3
Analyst EMS	1290	0.4
Angel Trade	36.1	0
Angel Trade Bond A	152	0
Angel Trade Bond B	109.5	0
Angel Trade Bond C	82.5	0
Angel Trade Warrant 2	1	0
Apcon	1065	1.4
Apcon warrant 1	317	5
Applicom	2580	-0.4
Aracell Warrant 2	475	-1.1
Arad	2070	3.4
Arad Towels	914	0
Arazim	84	0
Arazim Bond 1	395	0
Argaman	247	-0.8
Arieden	1021	0.3
Arpal	471	0
Aryt	128	0.8
Ashkelon Plywood	858	10
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 1	227	0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 2	199	0.8
Ashtad	433	0
Ashtad Bond A	149	-6.3
Ashot	307	0
Ashot Bond A	169	0
Ashpam	78	-8.7
Ashtrom Bond 1	169	0
Ashtrom Bond 2	152.5	0
Ashtrom Ind.	580	1
Ashtrom Prop.	211	7.1
Astrom P Bond 1	87.5	0
Astrom p warrant a	34	0
Astrum Bond C	94.5	0
Astrum Warrant 2	34	0
Ataon	78.5	0
Atmor	2246	-0.3
ATX	167	0
ATX Bond A	148	3.9
Atzmon	255	-1.2
Aura	5080	0.2
Avarot	400	-0.8
Avarot Bond A	154.3	0
Avirbuch Formica	845	-10
Aviv	402	0.2
Avni Bond 1	147	0.3
Avni Bond 2	89	0
Avnier	9	5.3
Avrot Bond 2	91	0
Avrot Warrant 2	64	0
Aysilon	568	-9.2
Azimuth	548	0
Azorim Properties Bond 3	172.5	0
Azorim Warrant 13	500	-4
Azorim Warrant 5	97	0
Azorim Warrant A	559	-0.2
Azorim Warrant 6	652	4.9
Badash Bond 1	41.9	-0.5
Baiff	950	0
Balemine 1	286	-0.3
Balemine Bond A	122.5	-0.8
Balemine Warrant 2	8.6	-5.4
Balron	3992	-10
Bami	98.5	1.5
Bami'asef	132.5	0
Bami'asef Bond A	352	0
Bar	107.5	-0.5
Bar Bond A	268	0
Barad	667	2.8
Baranowitz	559	0
Barkan	100.5	1
Barsol	157	1.9
Bartal	183.5	0
Baumel Moshe	85.3	0.1
BaySide Bond 2	2200	0
BaySide Warrant D	1511	0.9
Bell Shemesh	235	0
Belmon	168.5	0
Ben Yakar Bond A	83.5	-2.9
Ben Yakar Bond B	4319	0
Ben Yakar Gat	7.7	-43.4
Ben Yakar Warrant 2	182	0
Berman	111.6	0.2
Bezek Bond 3	1276	0
Bezek Bond 4	597	1
Bezek Warrant 3	269	1.7
Bezek Warrant Bond 3	1720	0
Bilu	194.5	0
Bilu Bond A	530	0
Bimar	265	-5
Bin	74.5	0
Bolos Bond B	46.8	11
bolos gad warrant 1	552	0
Bonel Tichon		

	LAST	CHANGE*
Bonjour	861	0
Boulous Brothers	1355	-0.4
Boulous Brothers Bond 1	254	0
Boulous GD Bond A	122	-0.4
Brand	87.5	-0.8
Brill	64	0
Brok Sids	22.7	0
Broshi	114.5	-0.4
Building Bank	2024	2.5
Building Resou	3515	0
C-Holdings	700	0
C Holdings Bond 5	97	0
C Holdings Warrant 3	19	0
Caesarea 1	5765	0
Canlei	3100	-1.3
Capital	239	0
Capital Bond A	117.2	0
Caprice	395	9
Cargal	779	-5.1
Carmel	548	0
Carmel	565	-0.5
Castro	829	0
Catalana 1	448	-2.2
CDI	205	0
Cementacel Bond A	74	-1.3
Cementacel	594	-4.2
Center	147.5	0
Centre Bond 1	128	0.4
Chemi	605	-0.8
Chinyun Computers	167.5	0
Chromjet	440	0
Chim-Mir	502	0
CI Systems	222	0
Ciklon	191.5	-0.8
Clal Computer Warrant 3	0	0
Clal Computers	15430	1.2
Clal Industries Bond	995	-0.5
Clal Israel 5	805	1
Clal Retail	60573	0
Cohen Bard	192	1.1
Cohen Dev.	366	0
Cohen MM	208	-1.4
Cold Storage 1	1530	0
Cold Storage 5	7500	-1.2
Cold Storage and Supply Bond 1	242	0
Compl	241	-2.1
Compl Warrant 1	20	0
Compotite	186	0
Comtech	372	0
Comtrans	948	-1.1
Contel	1003	0
Coralcom	17500	0
Coral Beach	910	0
Credit Line	3.9	0
Credit Lines Bond A	36.5	0
Cyclone 1	1830	3.5
Cyclone Bond 1	236	-0.4
Cyclone Bond 2	149	0
Dafron	1480	0
Dafron Bond 1	342	0
Dalia	2	0
Dan Rent-A-Car	736	-2.6
Dan Rent-A-Car Bond A	154	0
Danbar 1	3920	0
Danbar 5	18200	0
Danbar Bond A	284	0
Danbar Resources	7167	7.5
Danbar Resources Bond B	181	-0.3
Daubar Tech.	6650	0
Daubar Technologies Bond A	148	0
Dekel	58	9.8
Dagal Bond A	85.5	0
Dasal Personnel	2450	-4.1
Dasal Warrant 2	509	0
Daviner Bond 1	207	0
Daviner Bond 2	142.4	0
Daviner Bond 3	98.5	-1.1
Daviner Warrant C	435	0
Daviner Warrant D	0	0
Davity	727	-10
Dead	96	2.8
DARBAN BOND 2	98.4	0.2
Darban Bond A	226	0
DARBAN W2	140	0
Dasben Warrant 3	136	0
Daven	128.5	0
Davlin	149.5	0
Dash Investment	838	1.7
Data	380	-1.5
Decision Systems	570	3.3
Degem Systems	630	0
Delek Drillings	7.8	2.6
Delek Oil	1430	0
Delta 1	3370	-0.9
Delta 3	10850	-1.4
Destiny	77	0
Digal	1330	0
Dingy 1	116	0
Dolav	1700	0
Dolav Bond A	488	-1.5
Dolav Bond A	134	0
Dolav warrant 1	65	-11.7
Dorotex	409	0
Dorotex Bond	357	0
Dor-Chem	146.5	0
Dor-Chem	400	0
Dose w1	139	-30
Dorex	58	0
Dorf el	85.5	0.5
Dorf-Engineering	481	1.1
Dorl Engineering Bond A	136.5	0
Dowrat Bond A	194.5	1
Dowrat Shrem	1400	-3.9
Dowrat-Shrem Warrant 3	53	1.9
DSI	1526	0
Dubek M	2	0
Dubek S	2	0
Duelitz	317	0
DVG Industries	449	0
E & M Computing	1195	5
Edgar Albert	91	-0.5
Edgar Industries	201	0.5
Edgarlog Bond C	85.5	0.6
Edgar Inv. Warrant 5	27	0
Elar Bond A	98	9
Elbit	184.5	-10
Elbim	307	0
El-Bad	1880	0
El Dorit	575	0
El Gamil Bond 1	151	0.7
Elad	821	1
Elad Bond A	198	0
Elad Bond B	139.5	0
Elad-s3	91	-1.6
Elad w5	46.4	-4.9
Elbit Computers Bond B	123.2	-0.6
Elbit Computers Warrant 2	830	4.5
Elden Tech.	160	0
Electronic Line	453	0
Elgar	4736	1
Elishey	322	0
Elisch Ind.	786	0
Elisch	309	-1.9
Elit	437	0
Elite Bond A	141	0
Elron	3634	3.2
Elron Warrant 2	2957	3.5
Emek	131.5	-1.1
Emyle	610	0
Engel Const.	738	0
ESE	2040	0
Eshed Robotech	212	0
Evigo	442	-0.2
Evergreen	3300	0
Ewole Warrant 1	1281	0
Excelence	2031	0
Export Inv.	879	-2.4
Extrel	125.5	-3.1
Feldman	188	4.3
Feldman Bond A	148	0
Feldman Ind.	188	0
Feldman Warrant 3	12.8	0
Fertileam 1	124.5	0.4
Feuchtwanger 1	12100	-2.9
Feuchtwanger 5	57900	0
Fidelal	2530	0
Five J Jewelers	255	0
Five-J Jewelers Bond 2	128.5	0
Formlon Sosrce	191	0
Futurom	340	0.3
Gafadel	18690	0.2
Galcon	272	1.1
Galgan	1267	0
Galna	213	-0.5
Gamatronic	580	0
Gandil	1470	0
Gan Shmoel Bond A	113.1	1
Gan Shmoel Warrant 3	548	-2.9
Gaz Shmuel	1420	-3.1
Gaswel Yedot	2369	0
Gap Development	101	0
Gap Holdings	205	0
Gap Warrant 2	11	10
Gazit	702	1
Gazit Bond B	158.5	0
Gazit Bond C	120	0
Gibor Bond 1	65	0
Gibor Bond A	82.5	0
Gibor Sabrina	62	0
Gibor Sport	806	4.8
Gibor Warrant 2	139	0
Gibbon	710	-1.3
Gilco	1385	0
Gilisak	1638	4
Ginot Otem Oil	93	0
Glob Fin	900	4.2
Golan	356	0.2
GoM	494	0.2
Golden House	3657	0
Golden House Bond 1	242	0
Golex	141	-0.4
Granit Bond	147.3	-0.1
Granit Bond 2	147	0
Green Software	392	0
Greenberg	1294	0
H. Electronics	72	2.9
H. Mor	918	0
Habas	2915	0
Habas Bond 1	129	0.4
Hadar 1	17947	-3.3
Hadar 5	55520	0
Hadar Ins. 1	899	-2.5
Hadar Ins. 5	4080	-4.4
Hadarim Bond1	108.1	0
Hadarim Warrant1	920	-10.7
Hagal	398	0
Hagal Bond B	148.5	-1.9
Hamashbir	578	5
Hamat	6.9	-8.7
Hanel Bond A	435	0
Hasin Esh	692	0
Hasun	200	0
Hatchot 1	212	0.5
Hatchot Bond A	141.5	0
Hayal	1530	0
Hayal Bond1	341	0
Hayal Bond2	223	-33.6
Hayal Warrant 1	84	0.5
Hed Arzi Music	3445	0
Hiron 1	10458	0
Hiron 5	42114	0
HL Service Bond 2	178.5	0
HL Service Bond 3	149	-0.3
HL Services	2098	0
Hod	144.5	-3
Hof	871	0
Hofit	120.5	-7.3
Home Center	5820	5.9
Homeland	153.5	0
Hydrolics	589	0
IBS Industries	795	0
IBS Warrant 1	150.5	0
Ilan Gat	143	0
Ilan-Gat Bond A	253	0
ILDC Bond 6	418	0
ILDC Hotels	1164.5	0
ILDC Hotels Bond 1	71.5	0.7
ILDC Hotels Warrant 2	408	0
ILDC Insurance	129.5	0
ILDC Insurance Bond A	1958	-0.5
Imco	70.5	-0.7
Ind Bld Warrant 3	39	-1.7
Ind Bldgs R1	292	-0.3
Ind.Dev.Bank C	2900	1.7
Ind.Dev.Bank CC		

	LAST	CHANGE*
Ind.Dev.Bank CC 1	2640	-0.7
Ind.Dev.Bank Pref	1800	1.7
Independence Mort	88737	0
Interconsult	773	0
Interganmas 1	4841	0
Interganmas 5	18916	0
Iscar	2047	1.5
Ispro	3570	0
Isracolor	441	-0.9
Israel Corp. 5	108000	0
Israel Lighterage Bond 3	134	0
Israel Wire & Cables Bond C	174.5	0
Isrotex	1200	0
Isrotex Bond B	258	0
Isrotex Bond C	88.5	0
Issamco	3.1	3
Issta 1	7200	6.3
Issta 5	30000	1.7
Issta Bond A	248	0
ISTA LINES	2183	0
Ituy	2320	0
Ituy Bond 1	85.5	-0.5
Ituy Warrant 1	868	0
Ituy Warrant 2	17	0
Jafora Bond A	180	0
Jaycar	168	5.1
Jaycour Bond A	101.5	-1
JEC Bond B	83	-1.8
Jerusalem Mort	197	1
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 16	158	0
Jeunesse	30.2	0
JOEL	108.5	-4.2
JOEL Bond 1A	228	0
JOEL Bond 2	120	0
JOEL Bond A	224	-0.9
JOEL Warrant 3	2.5	0
Kadimad	184.5	-0.3
Kadoori	99	0
kafrica bond b	84.5	0
kafrica warrant 1	84	9.8
Kafrit	1187	0
Kalkalit Bond A	84.5	-0.3
Kalkalit warrant 2	327	-6.4
Kanaor	899	-0.5
Kanaor Bond G	130.5	0
Kanareyot	1011	-2.9
Kanel Warrant G	1.1	0
Kanlcol	40.1	0
Kanlcol Bond A	64.5	4.9
Kardan 1	498	0
Kardan 5	2200	1.4
Karo	128	0
Kaz Bond A	64	0
Kedem Chemicals	3740	0
Kedem Chemicals Bond 2	230	0
Kenitex	336	0
Kesher	798	0
Kesher Bond A	145.5	0
Keter	337	0
Kind	14	6.1
Kind Bond A	28.5	0
King	337	-0.3
Kinneret	226	0
Kitsh Kinor	163	0
Kishet Tevin	1045	1.8
Kitel	419	0
Kitel Bond A	132	0
Kitel Bond A	105	-0.9
Kitel Warrant 1	1	-50
Klil Ind. 5	6900	-3
Koor Bond 5	181.6	-1.5
Kopel	210	0
Kopel Bond 1	235	0
La Nationale Bond A	147.5	-0.3
La Nationale Pref	108	2.4
Lachish	3924	-5.7
Lamont	938	0
Lapidot Oil Exploration	1.3	0
Lapidot Oil Explorers	72	0
Lasers	446	0
Lavlev	580	0
Lazrilek Bldg	414	0
Lazrilek Comas Cars	125	0
Lazrilek Commercial Centres Bon	119.5	0
Lazrilek Ind Bldgs	328	-0.6
Lazrilek Industrial Bldgs. Bond	133	0.4
Leader Warrant B	82	-3.7
Lego	452	0
Leumi R4	97.1	0.4
Lewgenthal	399	-2.9
Levi	851	2.2
Levi Bond A	135	9
Levi Bond B	84.5	-0.6
Levi Warrant 2	100	0
Levinstein Bond A	90	0.6
Levinstein Warrant 2	524	4.6
Levinstein	1278	0
Liber	421	0
Lidan	15500	0
Lishir 1	162	0
Lishir 5	665	4.1
Lipat	589	2.1
Lipat Bond 1	153.5	0
Lipidenga 1	531	0
Lipol	230	0
Lipsker	3500	0
Lipsk	3500	-0.8
Lipsk Bond A	170	0
Lirez Bond A	184	1.1
Lodan	162.5	5.8
Lodzia 1	1460	0.3
Lodzia 4	5908	0
Lohot Gaill	32.2	0
Lohot Gaill Bond 1	136	0
Lumir	3662	8
Ma'ariv	2360	0.8
Ma'ariv Bond A	127	-1
Maabarot	1104	0
Magal	1150	-1.8
Magal Bond A	131	0
Magal Bond B	119	0
Magal Bond C	76	-1.3
Magal Warrant 3	145	0.3
Mahl	782	-0.3
Magam	174.5	-0.3
Magam Bond A	168.5	0
Magam Bond B	123.5	-0.8
Magav	281	16.2
Magna	47	0
Magna Warrant 1	1	0
Magor 1	2200	0
Magor 5	9700	0
Magor hldgs. Bond B	80.5	-0.6
Magor hldgs. Warrant 2	640	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant A	22.3	0.5
Maiel	366	1.4
Mail	73.5	0
Malibu 1	693	1.5
Malibu 5	4040	-1
Malibu Bond B	170.9	-0.8
Malta	697	1.5
Man	111	0
Man Bond A	228	0
Mantur	42.9	0
Marathon	106	5.5
Marathon Insured	111.2	-1.6
Mario Lazniek Constr. Bond 1	169	0
Mario Lazniek Constr. Bond 2	140.5	-0.4
Maritime Bank	1750	-0.6
Maritime Bank Bond A	197	0
Maritime Bank Bond B	138	0.4
Mashav	778	0.3
Mashbir	808	0
Mashov	580	-1.9
Mashov	158.5	0
Mashov Marketing Warrant 1	4.5	-21.1
Matam	1350	-0.7
Matav Warrant 1	455	5.1
Maxtrex 1	398	-0.6
Maxtrex 5	1477	0
Maxpak	612	0
Med. Hosis	57.5	0
Medtechnics	792	-2.3
Medtechnics Bond A	131	0
Medtechnics Bond B	78.5	0
Medtechnics Warrant 2	186	-4.1
Mediterranean Hotels Bond A	75	-5.1
Megasion	57.5	0
Meimad	404	0
Meir Ezra	2250	-2.7
Meir Ezra Bond B	239	0
Meitav	398	0
Melisseron Bond B	88	-2.7
Melisseron Warrant 3	48	0
Mendelson	227	-8.8
Menorim	57	-0.9
Menorah Ins. 5	8500	2.1
Mercazit	852	-6.2
Mercazit Warrant 2	58	-4.1
Meshev	202	0
Meytavit	450	0
Middle East Tube	398	-2.2
Middle East Tube Bond A	106	0
Middle East Tube Warrant 2	22	-28.9
Milenior Bond A	149	-0.5
Millenior Bond B	73	-0.7
Millenior Warrant 2	225	4.4
Minrav	111	0
Mivl Line	573	-0.5
Mivtav	2150	-3
Mivtags	101	0
Mivtags Bond A	129	0
Mivtags Warrant 1	26	-1.1
Mivnit	50	0
Mishmar	19	0
Mishmar Bond B	91	0
Mishor Bond 2	142	-2.1
Mishor Hahol	386	-1
Mitmani	119.5	0
Mivtach Shamir	3200	0.8
Mivtach Shamir	1439	-5.1
MM Engineering	133.5	3.1
MM Engineering Bond A	98.5	-2.7
Modgal	715	0
Modiin	1.6	0
Mollet	215	-1.9
Mollet Convertible Bond AAA	310	-4.8
Molett	598	0
More Plastic Ind.	333	-0.9
Moskowitz	167.5	-0.9
MTI Computers	481	0
Mul-T-Lock	869	0
Mula Center	203	0
Nagshelon Fund	49.1	0
Naphtha	48.3	0
Naphtha Oil Exp.	22.7	0
Nalcor	899	18.1
NATSVA BOND A	97.9	0
Navigator	958	2.6
Navigator Property	800	0
Nechushtan Bond B	87.5	-0.7
Nechushtan Prop.	153	0
Nechushtan Properties Bond A	122.5	0
Nechushtan Warrant 1	26.5	0
Negev Cosmetics	180	2.6
Nehushtan 1	1002	0.5
Nehushtan 5	4875	1.2
Nest Aviv	7118	-2.5
Nasua	538	0
Nawa Asbel	81	0
Navilen Hotels	385	0.3
Newlot	896	0
Nia	302	0
Nilaviv	1480	-4.1
Nisco	2148	0
Nissan	229	5
NMS	918	0
Noga	1418	-0.3
Noga Insurance	102	0
Nordan	12.2	0
Norstan Tech.	417	0
Norlolk	670	-0.4
Norlolk Bond A	145	0.3
Nur	83	0
NYP	991	0
Oasena	314	-1.3
Ocil Bond A	175.2	0
Ocil Bond B	174.5	0
Ocil Bond C	85.5	0
Ocil Warrant 2	950	0
Octava	744	-2.2
Oilek	158	-1.2
Olar Bro	8410	-2

	LAST	CHANGE*
Olfa	859	-0.5
Ogdan	61	0
Ohaiter	594	-0.2
Oil Fields	1.1	0
Old-Dok	221	0
Omni	282	0
Ormitech	255	-0.4
Ophir	449	-0.2
Oppenheimer	86	0
Opsma	107.5	0
Orasys	3885	0
Orazil	259	5.1
Orazil Bond A	158	0
Orda	3753	0
Orda Bond 1	175	0.9
Orev	548	0.5
Orisal	143	0
Orlea	439	0
Orlta Bond A	90	0
Orlta Warrant 2	87.5	0
Otmet Industries Bond D	126	0
Otmet Industries Warrant 5	116	-5.9
Ortel	324	8.4
Otzar Hasbilion	19370	-1.1
Oz	233	-9.7
Oz stide	960	0
Packer Steel	6080	-3
Pailough	499	-1.2
Pama	708	9.1
Pamas	2589	0
Pan Dor	286	-4
Paodes	790	0.3
Pardes Bond A	82	-0.6
Passport	2582	0.2
Paz Chen	376	1.1
PCBL	1580	2.5
Pdan Investment	60	2.6
Perag	99	-1.5
Peridotex	1116	-0.5
Phoenix Ins. 5	21300	2.3
Plca Plast	436	4.1
Plavos	138	0
Plavos Bond A	137.5	0
Plski	391	-2.3
Plason bond a	95	0
Plason warrant 1	397	0
Plasson	3730	-0.8
Plasto Sac	750	0
Plasto Shock Bond A	86	0
Plasto Shock Warrant 2	109	0
Plasto Shock Warrant 3	0	0
Poalim Inv. Bond B	89	-0.5
Poalim Inv. Warrant 3	2300	-0.4
Poalim Investments Bond A	131.5	0
Poalim Warrant 3	503	1.4
Point of Sale	6710	-0.1
Polak	384	0
Polgat A	281	0
Polgat B 4	804	-3.1

TASE declines on concern about peace talks

Tel Aviv

Israeli stocks declined for the first time in four days as investors expressed concern about reports that Israel and the Palestinians had failed to reach a breakthrough at the London talks.

The Maof Index of 25 largest companies lost 0.44 percent to 333.21, down from Tuesday's record high.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday in London that two days of talks aimed at advancing the Middle East peace process may continue in Washington, D.C. at a later date.

"It's all about the confidence in the market by the foreign investor," said Keith Phillips, an analyst at Societe Generale Securities and Trading. "Without the peace process, the market could drift lower."

The market was also dampened by expectations that first-quarter earnings of Israeli retailers and real estate companies will be affected by the country's slowing growth, analysts said.

Super-Sol, a supermarket chain operator, dropped 2% to 11.60 shekels. Shares of Azorim Investment Development & Construction Co., a real estate and construction company, slipped 0.6% to 31.8 and parent holding company Clal Israel Ltd. shed 1% to 1.114.

The drops were offset by Bezeq, which added 0.4% to 11.08 shekels.

The Communications Ministry said it plans to submit a proposal to a panel of cabinet ministers in the near future for further sales of state assets in Bezeq. Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Israel's largest drugmaker, gained 1.1% to 162.2.

Europe

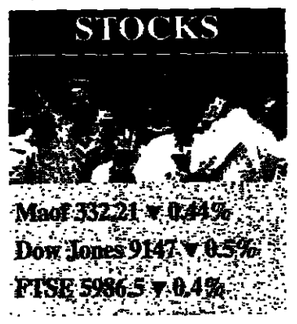
UK stocks were mixed as banks slid on concern interest rates may rise, while exporters advanced as the pound weakened.

British Petroleum Plc fell following its first-quarter results, where lower oil prices cut profits. The benchmark FTSE 100 Index slid 23.8 points, or 0.4%, to 5986.5, while the broader FT-SE 250 Index, laden with exporters, gained 0.52% to a new closing record of 5682.3.

BP was among leading decliners on the FT-SE 100, shedding 13.5p to 939.5 and cutting 4.4 points from the index.

"Obviously, Europe's an influence now that interest rate fears have returned," said John Shelley, senior fund manager at Aberdeen Asset Management, which has about $18.3 billion under management. "Sterling weakness is adding additional stimulus."

The UK is not joining the European Union's single currency when it's introduced in January. All the same, concern Germany's Bundesbank could raise rates, after an EU decision on who'll head its new central bank, filtered into British markets.



At a summit this weekend to choose the members of the single currency, the EU compromised on who will head the new European Central Bank. The Bundesbank opposed the compromise, under which Dutchman Wim Duisenberg will step down midway through his eight-year term to make way for the French candidate Jean-Claude Trichet.

Asia

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index fell to its lowest point since mid-February as signs that the city's economy is slowing sent property developers tumbling.

Indonesia's benchmark index plunged as violent protests against price increases shook investor confidence, and stocks fell in Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and India. Philippine stocks rose on optimism that next week's presidential election would lure foreign investors back to the country.

In Hong Kong, Amoy Properties Ltd. and other real estate companies dragged the 33-stock Hang Seng down 285.76, or 2.74 percent to 10,153.66, its lowest since February. 16. Rising borrowing costs hammered the property companies and banks, while concern about a government shuffle in Beijing hit China stocks like Citic Pacific Ltd.

"We are surrounded by disappointing news," said Cheah Cheng Hye, managing director at Value Partners Ltd., which manages $150 million. "There are bankruptcies everywhere you look, unemployment is rising, all the economic indicators are bad."

Monday, Hong Kong's government said the economy grew a weaker-than-expected 2.7% in the fourth quarter of 1997. Many economists say growth will slow even more this year.

Financial markets were closed in Japan, Thailand and South Korea for holidays. (Bloomberg)

Wall Street

Wall Street pulled back yesterday as a return to record levels remained on hold with no clear resolution to last week's interest rate worries.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell almost exactly as much as it rose in setting a new high on Monday, slipping 45.09 points — or 0.5 percent — to 9,147.57.

Broader indexes also extended late Monday's downturn, which halted a three-session rally just as the market was returning to record levels.

Stocks were pressured throughout the day by a weak bond market, where the yield on the 30-year Treasury – a key influence on borrowing costs for companies and consumers — rose back toward 6%.

Bonds struggled after comments by the head of the International Monetary Fund reaggravated last week's jitters that the Federal Reserve will boost its key lending rates to guard against inflation.

Yesterday's selling was very broad-based, with only one of the Dow 30 – American Express – showing a loss of at least 2 points.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by an 8-to-5 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,134 up, 1,813 down and 564 unchanged. (AP)

Mark hits 3-month high on German rates

The dollar fell to a three-month low against the mark after traders speculated yesterday's increase in Danish interest rates heralds a rate rise before long in Germany.

The Bundesbank needs to lift short-term rates to bring them in line with those in the 10 other nations adopting Europe's new single currency in January. Higher German rates would boost demand for mark deposits and bonds and the currency to buy them.

"Raising rates soon would take a lot of uncertainty out of the market and people would see convergence taking place," said Ivar Bjornstad, treasurer in charge of foreign exchange at Den norske Bank. "We could see the dollar drop to 1.74 marks within the next two weeks, maybe even sooner."

The dollar fell as low as 1.7677 marks, its lowest since January 26. It was at 1.7696 marks from 1.7785 Monday.

The dollar also fell to 132.02 yen from 133.05 yen after traders took comments by US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin to mean the US wouldn't mind a stronger yen.

What Japan's government needs to do "is not depend on the yen falling to generate export-led demand, but just the opposite," Rubin told CNBC in an interview.

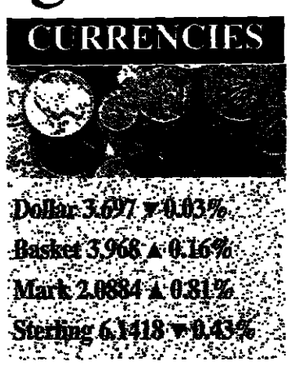
Traders took the remark as a suggestion that "dollar-yen does not have to go higher for recovery in Japan and they spanked the dollar," said Paul Spirgel, senior currency trader at Royal Bank of Scotland. He said traders at the bank were among the dollar sellers.

The yen has fallen 5.3 percent against the dollar since early March.

Denmark's central bank unexpectedly raised its benchmark repurchase rate by a half percentage point to 4.25%. Even though Denmark isn't joining the monetary union, its monetary policy often moves in tandem with Germany's, a suggestion the Bundesbank may soon follow suit.

Also boosting speculation that European interest rates will converge soon was Spain's move to cut its key interest rate 25 basis points to 4.25%. With signs of recovery in Germany, economists project that economic and monetary union's starting interest rate will be close to the 4% indicated in the futures market.

"The European economies are improving and interest rates are low in Germany and probably going to move up," said Paul O'Brien, who helps manage $5 billion in global bonds at Miller Anderson & Sherrerd in West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania.



The December contracts for several European currencies indicate investors and traders expect 3-month money market rates for the single currency, or euro, will be between 4.09% and 4.13% at the end of the year.

A growing number of traders and investors predict that the Bundesbank may raise rates soon to instill confidence in the euro after European Union leaders reached a compromise on splitting the tenure of the European Central Bank chief.

Bundesbank leaders had opposed any compromise on the term of the ECB's presidency, since it wouldn't follow the strict rules laid down for monetary union.

At a weekend summit in Brussels, German delegates bowed to the French, though, by agreeing former Dutch Central Bank chief Wim Duisenberg would serve only part of the first eight-year term as bank chief. He will resign midway and be replaced by Bank of France Governor Jean-Claude Trichet.

With political concerns playing a role in the decision-making, investors speculated the Bundesbank may try to boost confidence in the euro by raising rates in a preemptive move against inflation. German interest rates are the benchmark for the single EMU rates that will govern monetary policy once the euro is introduced. Germany's benchmark repurchase rate is 3.30%.

"If they take quick steps to raise rates, it might add some credibility to how people regard the euro," said David Becker, senior dealer at Bank Austria. "We're going to be dominated over the next fortnight by interest rates."

Even so, analysts said politics isn't the only reason Germany may raise rates. Faster growth in Europe means the single EMU rate will need to be higher to keep inflation in check. (Bloomberg)

Palladium falls as further Russian export delays seen

Precious metals

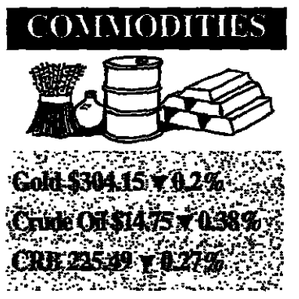
Palladium for June delivery rose as much as $11.50, or 3.8 percent, to $312.00 an ounce on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Russia isn't expected to start exporting platinum group metals "before the end of the summer," according to the Russian Interfax news agency, citing an unnamed source at Almazjuvelirexport, the state-owned export agency.

Russia, the world's largest palladium supplier and No. 2 platinum supplier, hasn't shipped any metal so far this year.

Further delays are expected in the issuing of export licenses because the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Economy are merging, even though Sergei Kiriyenko, the newly endorsed prime minister, signed an order on export quotas last month.

Oil

Crude oil fell on speculation that a second round of global production cuts isn't likely after a weekend meeting of the Saudi Arabian, Venezuelan and Mexican oil ministers didn't occur. Still, Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ali Naimi said he would meet with ministers from the other two countries later this week.



June Brent crude oil futures trading on London's International Petroleum Exchange fell 31 cents to $14.82 a barrel.

Others

Coffee rose on expectations for cold weather in Brazil, the world's largest coffee producer, leading to concern that frost will damage crops. Temperatures are expected to fall to below normal levels in coffee-growing regions of Brazil today, said Lexington, Massachusetts-based Weather Services Corp. A frost in Brazil could devastate the country's coffee crop at a time of lean stockpiles of London-traded robusta coffee.

Coffee for July delivery rose $36 to $1,826 a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange.

Copper rose after Phelps Dodge Corp., the largest US copper mining company, said it will reduce output at a New Mexico mine. Over the next three years, Phoenix-based Phelps Dodge will reduce copper cathode output by about 15,000 metric tons a year on average.

Low copper prices have led to a number of recent announcements from producers that they are cutting back on output. Three month copper rose $24 a metric ton to $1,875 a ton on the London Metal Exchange. (Bloomberg)

US bonds drop as investors see few signs of slowdown

US bonds fell for a second day as investors fretted that reports this week will show brisk growth, and as Fannie Mae and other borrowers geared up to sell some $9 billion of debt in coming days.

"With any signs of strong growth or inflation, you'll see the market back off pretty quickly," said Eric Cheung, who manages $2.8 billion of bonds at Wilmington Trust Corp. in Wilmington, Delaware. Cheung said he's lately been favoring corporate securities, because of their higher yields.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell 7/32, or $2.19 per $1,000 bond, pushing its yield up 2 basis points to 5.96 percent. The two-year note's yield rose 1 basis point to 5.58%. Few bonds traded in Asia, where Japanese financial markets were closed for a holiday.

Bonds earlier fell after an interest rate increase by Denmark raised concern that higher rates in Europe might make Treasury securities less attractive.

The Danish central bank raised its repurchase rate by half a point to 4.25%, sparking speculation that the German central bank may follow suit and causing the dollar to slip against the mark and European yields to rise.

Higher European rates help boost the allure of investments there and "reduce the flow towards Treasuries," said Michael Cloherty, bond strategist at Credit Suisse First Boston. The dollar slipped to 1.7706 marks, from 1.7785 Monday.



Bonds also were kept in check as Fannie Mae, AT&T Capital Corp., Enterprise Rent-A-Car and others prepared up to sell bonds this week, presenting a higher-yielding alternative to Treasuries.

Traders are reluctant to buy bonds because of concern reports this week – including the April employment release on Friday – will show the economy is robust. Yields on 30-year bonds have mostly traded between 5.80% and 6.10% so far this year, in part because the economy has shown few signs of slowing.

"I still think we're range-bound," said Tom Donne, who manages about $1.1 billion at Banc One Investment Advisors in Columbus, Ohio.

The government probably will report the economy added 266,000 jobs last month, pushing the jobless rate down 0.1 percentage point to 4.6%, according to economists surveyed by Bloomberg News.

Brisk job growth raises concern that employers will be forced to pay higher wages to attract workers, increasing the risk of faster inflation, which erodes the value of bonds fixed returns.

Last week, bonds plunged after a *Wall Street Journal* report said the Federal Reserve adopted a bias toward higher rates at a meeting in March. While reports later in the week showing scant inflation quelled concern a rate increase is imminent, some traders fret that continued robust growth may prompt a Fed rate increase at some point.

(Bloomberg)

	LAST	CHANGE*
Teradyne	57.875	+1.4375
Tesoro Pet	20.625	-0.125
Texaco	61.9375	-0.3125
Texas Instrmnts	68.25	+1.0625
Texas Utilities	39.125	+0.0625
Textron	76.875	-1.6875
Thiokol	52.625	-1.1875
Thomas & Betts	59.6875	+0.375
TyreCom	34.4375	-0.375
Time Warner	78.8125	+0.1875
Times-Mirror	61.875	+0
Timken	40.875	-0.875
Torchmark	45.0625	-0.5
Tosco Corp	36.0625	+0.125
Toys R Us	29.0625	+0.875
Transamerica	116	+0.125
Transco Energy	68.9375	-0.625
Travellers Grp	61.125	-0.75
Tribune	68.125	-0.125
Triton Energy	40.75	-0.4375
TWA	9.125	+0.3125
Tyco Labs	54	-0.875
Tyler	10.5	-0.1875
UAL Corp	83	-1.9375
USG Corp	53.25	+2
UST Inc	28.5	+0.875
USX Marathon	35.75	-0.375
USX-US Steel	38.375	-0.3125
Ultramar Diam	33.375	+0.4375
Unicom Corp	34.9375	+0.25
Unilever PLC	43.875	-0.625
Unilever NV	77.5	-1.125
Union Camp	61.0625	-1
Union Carbide	53.625	+2.125
Union Pacific	56.375	-1.3125
Unisys Corp	22.5625	-0.4375
USAIR Group	68.8125	-0.875
USF&G Corp		
US Home	43.125	+0.4375
US Surgical	30.4375	-0.125
US Trust	70.9375	-0.6875
US West	53.6875	-0.375
United Tech	88.125	-1.4375
Unocal Corp	40.3125	-1.1875
VF Corp	51	-1.5625
Valero Energy	32.8125	+0.4375
Varian Assoc	48.8125	+0.3125
Viacom Inc	56	-0.6125
Vishay	19.625	-0.125
Vulcan Materials	115.438	-0.5625
Wachovia	85.1875	-0.3125
Walgreen	34.4375	-0.6875
Wal-Mart Stores	50.5	-0.375
Warner-Lambert	155	+0.875
Wash Gas Light	25.6875	-0.6125
Washington Mutu	70.5938	-0.15625
Washington Post	529	-2
Waste Mgmnt Inc	34	+0
Watkins-Johnson	25.875	-1.125
Weis Markets	35.75	+0.25
Wells Fargo	377.5	-2
Wendy's Intl	24.0625	+0.375
Westvaco	30.25	-0.4375
Weyerhaeuser	59.125	-0.8125
Whirlpool	71.8125	+0.1875
Whitman	19.1875	-0.375
Williams Co	32	-0.0625
Winn Dixie Stos	36.9375	-0.5625
Woolworth	22.875	-0.25
World Comm	43	-0.125
Worthington Ind	17.5375	+0
Wrigley	80.25	+0.3125
Xerox	114.375	+0.375
Yellow Freight	17.8125	-0.1875
Zenith Electron	3.25	-0.4375
Zexo Co	29.875	-0.5625

LONDON

Allied Domecq	622	-7
BAT Inds	575	+5.5
BT	663.5	+4.5
BTR	199.75	+1
Barclays	1785	+20
Bass	1116	-21
Boots	938	+1
British Airways	622	-9
Comm Union plc	1158	-14
Diageo	733	+3.5
General Electric	490	+4.25
Glaxo	1735	+24
Halifax	782	-17.5
HSBC (75p shs)	1825	-75
ICI	1114	+30
Lond Securities	1067	-1
Lloyds Bank	901.5	-0.5
Marks & Spencer	586	-11
NatWest Bank	1221	-8
Prudential	855	-4.5
Reuters	641	-6
Sainsbury	480	+0.5
Shell Transport	452.25	-2.25
Unilever	657.5	-8
Zeneca	2600	+10

PARIS

Accor	1684	-6
Air Liquide	1125	+7
Alcatel-Alsthom	1175	+20
Euro Disney	9.35	+0.05
Michelin B	378.8	-0.1
Moulinex	182.9	+0.9
Perfos	639	-14
Pernod Ricard	415	-12.5
Peugeot	1065	-24
Saint Gobain	1036	+18

FRANKFURT

Bayer	76.9	-2.15
Daimler-Benz	179.7	-1.4
Lufthansa	42.4	-0.8
Mannesmann	1485	-30
Metallgesellschaft	38.1	-1.35
Volkswagen	1435	-53

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK(DATE 5-MAY-98)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

	Last	Change
Sel (Basket) (1)	3.6886	0
U.S. Dollar (1)	3.697	0
British Pound (1)	6.1418	0
Deutsch Mark (1)	2.0889	0
French Franc (1)	0.6226	0
Japanese Yen (100)	2.791	0
Swiss Franc (1)	2.4839	0
Canadian Dollar (1)	2.5721	0
Italian Lira (1000)	2.1184	0
Jordanian Dinar (1)	5.2313	0

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	9147.57	-45.09
DJ Transport	3449.04	-52.15
DJ Utils	284.7	+0.57
DJ Comp	2693.24	-19.61
NYSE Indust	717.64	-2.88
NYSE Transport	512.55	-4.93
NYSE Comp	579.75	-2.98
S&P 100	538.97	-2.86
S&P Spot Index	1115.65	-6.42

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	59865	-238
Tokyo NIKkei		
Singapore all-share Index	385.81	+0.01
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	101536	-2858
Israel Index	241.45	-0.8
Paris CAC 40	3944.91	-29.34
DAX	5014.66	+307.22
Madrid	89228	0
Swiss Market Index	7596.2	-44.6
Sydney	2800S0	-980
Milan	140491	0

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

	Last	Change
Pound:spot	1.6812	-0.0062
Jun:future (CME)	1.6604	-0.0018
D-mark:spot	1.7695	-0.0097
Jun:future (CME)	0.5672	+0.0043
S-franc: spot	1.4804	-0.0084
Jun:future (CME)	0.6786	+0.0049
Yen: spot	131.63	-1.31
Jun:future (CME)	0.00765	+9.4e-005
CanDlr:spot	1.4362	+0.0055
Jun:future (CME)	0.6951	-0.0029
AusDlr:spot	0.8413	-0.0004
Jun:future (CME)	0.8405	-0.0007
F-franc: spot	5.934	-0.0315
It Lire: spot	1744.5	-10.5
Ntg: spot	1.994	-0.0105
AusShg: spot	12.458	-0.0614
Rand:spot	5.056	0
ECU: spot	1.1149	+0.0047

US COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (May) (CEC)	1699	+13
Coffee (May) (CEC)	134	+5.1
Wheat (May) (CBOT)	298	+5.25
Soybean (May) (CBOT)	652.5	+5.25
Sugar (May) (CEC)	8.5	0
Orange juice (May)(CEC)	111.7	+8.45
Bonds:Jun:future	120	-0.34375
S and P:Jun:future	1118.6	-8.3

LONDON COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (May) (LCE)	1075	+2
Coffee (May) (LCE)	1939	+59
Brent crude oil (May)(IPE)		

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

	Last	Change
Silver:spot	6.12	-0.14

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

	Last	Change
Silver (May)	6.067	-0.145
Platinum (Apr)		
Palladium (Jun)	307	+6.5
High-grade copper (May)	0.837	-0.009

LONDON METAL FIXES

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	304.2	-1.9
Gold PM fix	305.9	+0
Silver fix	523.5	+6.5

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date (Spot market fixings are from aproximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK(DATES-MAY-98)

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Contact : Elan Levi

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (20.4.98)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.090
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.550	5.540	5.620
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.180	2.280	2.700
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.060	0.190	0.560
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (5.5.98)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.9374	4.0010	—	—	3.9686
U.S. dollar	3.6689	3.7281	3.60	3.78	3.6970
German mark	2.0707	2.1041	2.03	2.14	2.0884
Pound sterling	6.0966	6.1950	5.99	6.29	6.1418
French franc	0.6175	0.6275	0.60	0.64	0.6228
Japanese yen (100)	2.7668	2.8115	2.71	2.86	2.7915
Dutch florin	1.8389	1.8685	1.80	1.90	1.8545
Swiss franc	2.4730	2.5129	2.43	2.55	2.4939
Swedish krona	0.4809	0.4887	0.47	0.50	0.4844
Norwegian krone	0.4983	0.5064	0.48	0.52	0.5028
Danish krone	0.5431	0.5519	0.53	0.56	0.5474
Finnish mark	0.6813	0.6923	0.66	0.71	0.6872
Canadian dollar	2.5536	2.5948	2.50	2.64	2.5721
Australian dollar	2.3530	2.3910	2.31	2.43	2.3707
S. African rand	0.7254	0.7371	0.65	0.74	0.7308
Belgian franc (10)	1.0041	1.0203	0.98	1.04	1.0126
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9446	2.9921	2.89	3.04	2.9684
Italian lira (1000)	2.0985	2.1324	2.06	2.17	2.1164
Jordanian dinar	5.1602	5.2435	5.09	5.44	5.2313
Egyptian pound	1.0400	1.1300	1.04	1.13	1.1183
ECU	4.0841	4.1500	—	—	4.1183
Irish punt	5.2080	5.2920	5.11	5.37	5.2534
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4369	2.4763	2.39	2.52	2.4575

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Leumit, 14 Mesilat Yesharim, 567-7665; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Superpharm, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; Superpharm Dizengoff Center, 50 Dizengoff, 620-0975. Till 1 a.m. Thursday: Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvirol, 546-2040. Till midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; Superpharm London Ministore, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 696-0115.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava:Hyper Neto, 8 Chareshet, Ra'anana, 746-3537.
Netanya:Magen, 13 Weizman Blvd., 882-2985.
Haifa:Derech Hayam, 209 Derech Hayam, 837-1472.
Krayot area:Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Bialik, 878-7818.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics, ophthalmology); Shaare Zedek (internal, pediatrics, ENT).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE	100
FIRE	102
FIRST AID	101
Magen David Adom	

In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod* 8551333	Kfar Sava* 9802222
Ashkelon 6551932	Netanya* 9912333
Beersheba* 6274767	Netanya* 8604444
Beit Shemesh 9523133	Petah Tikva* 9311111
Dan Region* 5793333	Rehovot* 9451333
Eilat* 6332444	Rishon* 9642333
Haifa* 8512233	Safed 6920333
Jerusalem* 6523133	Tel Aviv* 5460111
Karmiel* 9985444	Tiberias* 6792444

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Help line for English-speakers – Confidential hot-line counseling and referrals for all ages, all problems. MiLev Center for Crisis Counseling. (02) 654-1111, 1-800-654-111.
Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110.
The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.
Eran – Emotional First Aid – 1201, also Jerusalem 561-0303, Tel Aviv 546-1111 (children/youth 546-0739), Rishon Lezion 956-6661/2, Haifa 867-2222, Beersheba 649-4333, Netanya 862-5110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kfar Sava 767-4555, Hadera 634-5789.
Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-655-5744/5. 24-hour service, confidentiality guaranteed.
Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133, 07-637-6310, 08-655-0506.
Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.
Hadassah Medical Organization – Israel Cancer Association support service, 02-624-7676.
Flight arrivals – for information in English 03-972-3344.

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Arsenal: Very well red, and white

NEVER mind that it was a Sunday. By 6.30, just half an hour after Arsenal were confirmed as Premiership champions following the 4-0 trouncing of Everton, the Castle pub on Green Lanes: the stretch of Holloway Road from Archway to Liverpool Road, and Peter's barber's shop next to Stoke Newington overground station, were draped in red and white banners of varying shapes and sizes.

The glory days had returned to North London (well, one part of North London, at least). It seemed that most labels of lager were represented in a snap poll of car windows spotted in the area, and you can be sure that the 11 p.m. licensing laws were liberally interpreted by publicans within a mile's radius of Highbury.

Arsenal's record since March 11, when they won 1-0 at Wimbledon, is a phenomenal further nine Premiership victories, not to mention the FA Cup run which will culminate in the final against Newcastle on May 16.

Amid all the tributes showered on the players and manager Arsene Wenger, surely the most poignant was Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson's comment on Sunday evening: "They deserve to win it after the way they have done the business."

The word business raises the sole question mark for Arsenal's next season at Highbury. The superb refurbishment of the stadium has limited the capacity to just over 38,000, and given Manchester United's experience of being able to sell double their capacity of over 55,000, it is difficult to see how Arsenal will satisfy demand for the Premiership and European Champions league campaigns next season.

On Sunday, tickets for the Everton game were changing hands for £100 without anyone getting particularly stroppy. If you believe one of the Sunday tabloids, however, it might not be too long before the Premiership is a distant memory for the Gunners and Manchester United who are both linked as the English representatives of a new European league involving the top clubs on the continent.

You certainly had to feel sorry for Everton. The defeat at Highbury leaves them in a perilous position for Sunday's final games. If they fail to beat Coventry at home, and Bolton win at Chelsea, then it's the big drop for the Merseysiders. They should be used to this kind of scenario – they have stayed in the Premiership courtesy of results going for them on the final day of the season three times in the past five years.

Manager Howard Kendall really ought to know better than make comments such as: "I hope Chelsea (Bolton's opponents on Sunday) don't go out to play with their flip-flops on".

Flip flops? With win bonuses so

London Calling



Mark Rivlin

entrenched into players' contracts, not to mention places at stake for Chelsea's Cup Winners' Cup final, it's hard to imagine the likes of Danny Granville, Mark Nichols and Jody Morris doing anything but their best, should Gianluca Vialli field a "weakened" side against Bolton.

IT certainly hasn't been the best week for England captain Alan Shearer after allegations that he kicked Leicester City's Neil Lennon in the face in the Premiership match last week. The Football Association are meeting this week to discuss video evidence of the incident and to see if Shearer, who vehemently denies deliberately hurting Lennon, has a case to answer.

The referee at the game, Martin Bodenham, didn't caution Shearer at the time, but the press have taken a different view. Roy Collins, writing in *The People* pulls no punches: "The only debate should be whether he (Shearer) stands in the dock of the High Court or on the mat of FA headquarters. One can only presume that no-one at Lancaster Gate can work a video since the film leaves less to the imagination than a Liz Hurley frock."

Shearer himself has taken the moral high road in his response to the incident. After Saturday's 3-1 victory over Chelsea he told reporters: "I wasn't born with the skills of a Best or a Pele. My game is commitment. I'm like my dad. He doesn't need to work but he does. He's up at six and comes home at six because he's committed. I'm the same."

If Bodenham had sent Shearer off at the time, which many have argued would have been the most appropriate decision, Shearer would have missed the Cup Final.

IF you are worried that the romance in sport has given way to the big bucks, you can gain some satisfaction from events at Wembley on Saturday. Unfancied Sheffield Eagles pulled off one of the greatest sporting upsets of recent times to beat the mighty Wigan in the rugby league's Silk Cut Challenge Cup final.

The bookies were so sure of a Wigan win they had them at 1-14 on, but Sheffield, a team only formed 11 years ago at a cost of £7,000, defended heroically and got the breaks with three tries to run out 17-8 winners.

Before the game, the Sheffield players were paraded in the newspapers half-naked in a "Full Monty" pose (the film was shot in and around the city), but there was more than bare-faced cheek about the way they overcame Wigan, who were looking for the ninth final victory in a decade.

Cup final day is always a big occasion for the sport whose roots are firmly planted in the North. Unlike their football counterparts, rugby league fans are impeccably behaved. On Friday, the respective fans were already in good voice as they made the pilgrimage to the ubiquitous tourist sites of central London.

FINALLY to Justin Fashanu, the former Norwich City and Nottingham Forest striker who was found hanged in a disused lock-up in East London on Saturday.

It was a tragic end for Fashanu who was wanted for questioning by American police over an alleged assault on a young man in Maryland. Seven years ago Fashanu became the first professional player to openly talk about his homosexuality causing friction between himself and his brother John, a player with Wimbledon, and Brian Clough, Justin's manager at Forest.

Robinson slams third one-day ton in a row

LONDON (Reuters) – Darren Robinson, emerging from the shadow of Graham Gooch, blasted his third successive one-day century as Essex romped to victory over Ireland in the Benson and Hedges Cup on Monday.

Essex won the 50 overs match at Chelmsford by 171 runs after piling up 359 for six off their 50 overs and restricting the Irish to 188 for seven.

Opener Robinson followed scores of 129 not out and 137 not out in his previous limited overs matches this season with 114 off 132 balls, hitting 14 fours and one six.

Robinson's opportunities were always limited while Gooch was opening for Essex but, with the former England captain now retired, he has come into his own.

Cup holders Surrey might have been expected to make at least 300 against the British Universities at The Oval, but had to settle for 263 before winning by 85 runs.

Alec Stewart made only 19 but international team mates Graham Thorpe (58) and Adam Hollioake (55) sustained the momentum.

Hollioake's brother Ben, who has been reprimanded by the England selectors for remarks in a recent magazine article, took three wickets as the Universities were bowled out for 158.

Surrey lead group C with three wins in three matches and Yorkshire have a similar dominant record in group B, having inflicted Derbyshire's third defeat, by 36 runs at Derby.

South Australian Darren Lehmann made his first century in the competition for Yorkshire, finishing 102 not out off only 94 balls.

Yorkshire scored 271 for seven in their 50 overs and held Derbyshire to 235 for nine.

In group A, Warwickshire lost their 100 percent record with a three-wicket defeat by Leicestershire at Leicester.

Phil Simmons outscored fellow-Trinidadian Brian Lara and everyone else with 89 not out as Leicestershire, who needed 264, won with three balls to spare.

Zimbabwean leg-spinner Paul Strang took four for 49 to help Nottinghamshire to victory over Northamptonshire by 35 runs.

The top two teams in each of the four groups qualify for the quarter-finals.

Local golf

The monthly medal golf tournament at the Caesarea Golf Club was divided into three divisions. Shuki Tzadikian led Division A with a four under par 69. Mati Geri was second with 70 and Zev Abraham third with 71.

Mike Rubin picked up the day's best score in Division B, a five under par 68. Katriel Springer's better back nine gave him second place with 71 while Kobi Koren took third place.

In C division, Faith Spector was first with 70, Aviva Dankner second with 74 and Sara Svirsky third at 75. *Heather Chait*

Higgins wins world snooker title, replaces Hendry as No. 1

SHEFFIELD (Reuters) - Scotsman John Higgins claimed snooker's top prize on Monday, beating defending champion Ken Doherty 18-12 in the final of the Embassy World Championship at a packed Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

Higgins had led 10-6 overnight but, when play resumed on Monday, a battling Doherty clawed his way back, first to 10-12 and then 11-13 in the best of 35-frame match.

But a missed red in the opening frame of the last session dashed the Irishman's hopes of closing the gap to a single frame. He was to win just one more frame as Higgins produced a 128 clearance and finished in style with a 118 break to clinch the title.

It was a double celebration for Higgins, 22, as the victory saw him replace his close friend and fellow Scot Stephen Hendry as World No.1.

After collecting the winner's check for £220,000, Higgins said: "I'm thrilled to have beaten a great champion." He added: "I thought I'd lost the advantage at 13-11 because I couldn't shake him off."

Higgins paid tribute to the man he knocked off the world ranking top spot.

"Stephen Hendry is probably one of the reasons why I have done so well, after practicing with him for a couple of years," the new champion said.

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These Yankees are kinder, gentler and so far, better

MY CALL

By DAVID LERNER

The brawling, bickering New York Yankees of the '70s and '80s are history. The animals have been set free from the Bronx Zoo and a new breed has moved in, renovated the place and thrived in a quieter, more peaceful environment. These Yankees truly are a team for the '90s: respectful, diligent and, dare it be said, sensitive.

Before Sunday's game against the Kansas City Royals, all but four or five players attended a morning chapel service. Then they went out and beat the Royals senseless, 10-1, for their 19th victory in 21 games. Say all you want about a close-knit team, but if it's 14 games out of first place, what difference does it make? This club possesses the best winning percentage (.769) in baseball heading into last night's game against the Texas Rangers here.

George Steinbrenner spent $72 million to construct this year's club, and as a result, it may be the most talented in baseball. But general manager Brian Cashman said this clubhouse karma that everyone speaks of is no coincidence. The front office wanted to foster a sense of unity almost as much as it wanted to pile up wins so the organization designed a blueprint for the off-season. And those plans have come to fruition so far.

The Yankees, at least in spirit, now resemble the 1996 world champions more than the divisive group that was bounced from the first round of the playoffs last October by an arguably less talented Cleveland Indians team. That strategy has worked as the Yankees are off to their best start (20-6) in 40 years.

"We felt, coming off the World Series, that there was a Three Musketeers-type attitude, you know, an all-for-one, one-for-all thing," Cashman said Monday. "With last year's team, there was a sense of 'We got what we wanted to accomplish, now I want what's best for me.' Some people on that team were just in it for themselves. We made a concerted effort to rid ourselves of those guys, and get guys in that could help."

Cashman didn't single out the bad seeds on last year's club, but then again, it's not necessary. Just compare the two rosters and do the math. One player Cashman did mention as an integral part of the healing process was third baseman Scott Brosius, who replaced the two-headed monster of Wade Boggs and Charlie Hayes.

Underneath the surface of Brosius's laid-back West Coast personality burns a competitive fire, and Sunday's game provided a good example.

With the Yankees leading 10-1 in the ninth inning, Brosius slid hard into Royals shortstop Felix Martinez to break up a double play. As Brosius, who got on base when he was hit by a pitch, hopped to his feet, Martinez glared at him. "You never assume anything," Brosius said. "The game goes for nine innings; you don't let up for nine innings."

With questions of complacency cropping up during this winning streak, Manager Joe Torre was satisfied by Brosius's argument to the contrary. "We play hard," Torre said. "They looked at us like, 'Why are you doing that up 10-1?' But when you start not playing hard, that's when you hurt yourself. He just took a shot in the chest (by a pitch), so I'm sure he wasn't in the best frame of mind."

Brosius has been accepted easily into the veteran core of the Yankees, along with the other new additions, right down to rookie Homer Bush. Bush, who sneaked onto the opening day roster and made his first start Sunday, was surprised by the way his teammates treated him before the game, telling him to relax and offering advice.

"I was (on) Cloud Nine," he said. "They cared about my approach going onto the field."

The clubhouse operates these days like a support group, only there are not many dysfunctional issues to address. Even Torre, the same manager who was harassed by talk of Davey Johnson only a month ago, is enjoying an unprecedented level of comfort. He's like a teacher with a class full of model students: They've already done all their homework, they're acing their tests and there are no fights in the schoolyard.

"Last year, I thought we had a different ballclub," Torre said.

"This club seems to like each other on and off the field." Said Cashman: "It was a wake-up call, some of the things that took place in the clubhouse last year, like a splash of cold water in the face. Now we have guys that go along with the mission statement.

That's not to say it's the overriding factor in our success, but it's an important factor. Winning is the bottom line, but it's important to keep that chemistry together." (Newsday)

Rockies pound Phillies, 11-2

Vinny Castilla hits major league-leading 14th homer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — John Thomson pitched seven strong innings and Vinny Castilla hit his major league-leading 14th home run as the Colorado Rockies beat the Philadelphia Phillies 11-2 Monday night.

The Rockies, the league's best-hitting team, had an eight-run lead before the Phillies scored their first run in the fourth.

Colorado has won four of its last five and six of its last eight.

Castilla homered for the third straight game, going 3-for-5 with two RBIs. Mike Lansing drove in four runs, Todd Helton drove in three and Ellis Burks homered.

Thomson (2-2) gave up one run on three hits, walked two and struck out three.

Reds 4, Expos 1

Scott Winchester allowed three hits in six innings for his first major league victory as visiting Cincinnati won.

Dmitri Young and Barry Larkin hit RBI doubles in the first, and Bret Boone and Eduardo Perez added solo homers in the ninth as the Reds ended the Expos' three-game winning streak.

Winchester (1-0) permitted just an unearned run, walked none and struck out one, and Jeff Shaw pitched the ninth for his 10th save. The Expos had only four hits, two by Mark Grudzielanek.

Braves 4, Dodgers 2

Javy Lopez hit a two-run single after Keith Lockhart led off the eighth inning with a homer, giving host Atlanta the win.

Kevin Millwood (4-1) allowed only four hits and picked up the win when the Braves scored three runs in the bottom of the eighth after Todd Zeile homered to give the Dodgers a 2-1 lead in the top of the inning.

Lockhart answered Zeile's leadoff homer with one of his own, clubbing a 3-1 fastball into the right-field seats to knock out Dodgers starter Hideo Nomo.

That extended the Braves' home run streak to 16 consecutive games, four short of the Atlanta team record.

Padres 13, Brewers 5

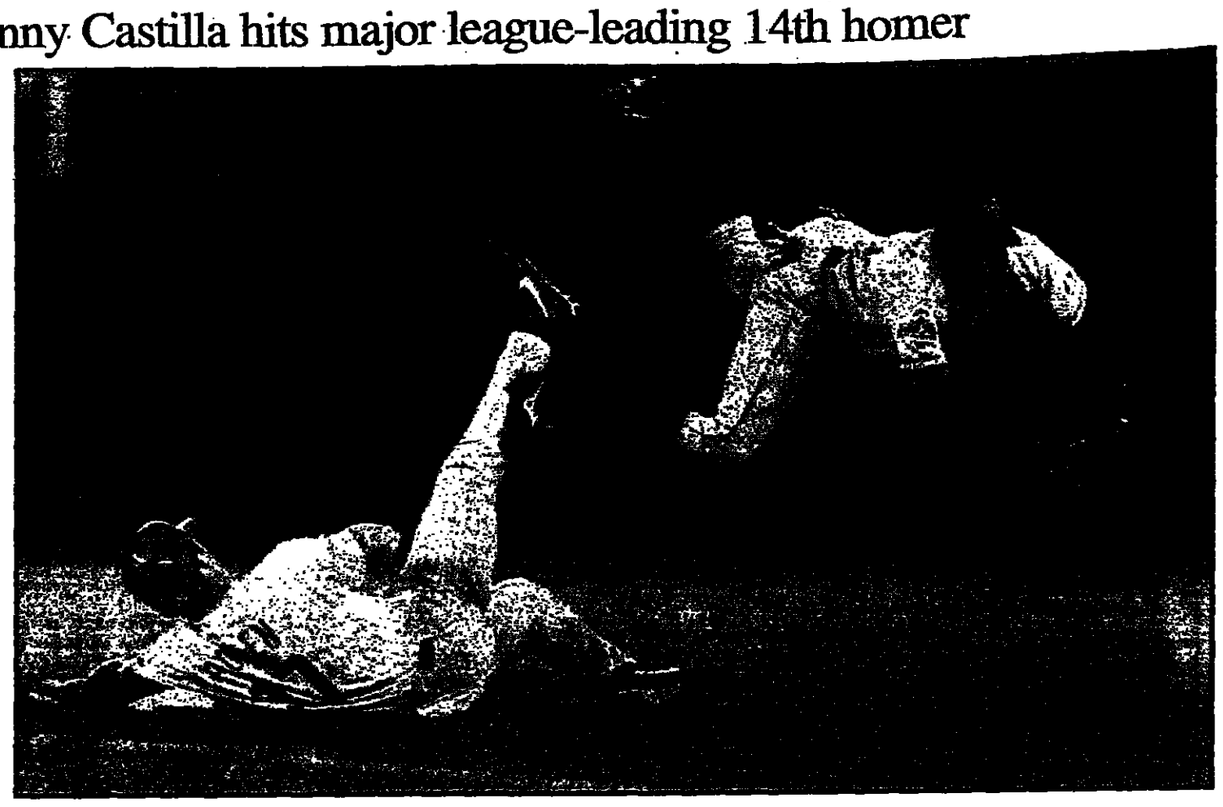
Jose Mercedes has gone from forgetful to forgettable.

The Milwaukee right-hander, who missed a start earlier this season when he forgot what time the game started, had the second-worst pitching performance in club history visiting San Diego won.

Andy Sheets and Greg Vaughn homered off him and pitcher Sterling Hitchcock added two RBI singles off Mercedes (2-2), who gave up 11 runs, all earned, on 12 hits in just 3⅓ innings.

His ERA ballooned from 4.08 to 6.75.

It was the worst outing by a Milwaukee pitcher since Bill Travers surrendered 14 earned runs in 7⅔ innings at Cleveland on August 14, 1977.



COMING THROUGH – Philadelphia's Scott Rolen takes out Rockies shortstop Neifi Perez as he completes a double play. (AP)

Diamondbacks 4, Mets 2 (11)

It took Buck Showalter nearly three years and 11 innings to win in New York again.

Showalter, making his first visit back to the city where he managed the Yankees for four seasons, won his homecoming as the Arizona Diamondbacks snapped a six-game losing streak.

David Dellucci doubled home two runs in the 11th for expansion Arizona, which won for just the eighth time in 31 games this season. Showalter guided the Yankees from 1992-95 before becoming the Diamondbacks first manager.

With two outs in the 11th, Travis Lee doubled off Brian Bohanon (0-1), and after Matt Williams was intentionally walked, Dellucci's double to left-center made it 4-2. Gregg Olson (1-1) pitched the 10th and 11th for the win.

Carlos Baerga drove in both runs for New York, which has lost seven of eight.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

White Sox 6, Angels 5

Rookie Magglio Ordonez hit a tying homer in the seventh and pinch-hitter Ruben Sierra had a two-run double in the eighth as visiting Chicago won.

Anaheim starter Allen Watson left with a 4-3 lead before Rich DeLucia (1-1) surrendered Ordonez's solo shot with two outs in the seventh.

DeLucia, who was charged with three runs in 1⅓ innings, walked Robin Ventura with one out in the eighth before Wil Cordero singled. After Mike James retired Jeff Abbott on a fly ball, Sierra batted for Charlie O'Brien and drove the next pitch to the gap in right-center.

Tony Castillo (1-1) earned the victory with a scoreless inning in relief of Jaime Navarro, who was charged with four runs and nine hits in six innings.

Matt Karchner earned his fourth save despite giving up a leadoff homer in the ninth to Matt Walbeck. The final out came on a groundout by Darin Erstad, who tied a career high with four hits.

Athletics 7, Blue Jays 4

Kenny Rogers won his fourth straight start and host Oakland took advantage of Pat Hentgen's wildness.

Jason Giambi and Scott Spiezio each drove in two runs in support of Rogers (5-1). Rogers gave up four runs and six hits in seven-plus innings.

Hentgen (3-3) allowed four runs and walked seven in three-plus innings. He had walked a total of eight batters in his previous six starts this season and had not walked more than three in any game.

Tony Fernandez and Ed Sprague homered for Toronto.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	21	10	.677	–
New York	14	14	.500	5½
Philadelphia	13	16	.448	7
Florida	11	20	.355	10
Montreal	10	19	.345	10
Central Division				
Houston	19	11	.633	–
Milwaukee	17	12	.586	1½
St. Louis	17	13	.567	2
Chicago	16	14	.533	3
Cincinnati	15	15	.500	4
Pittsburgh	12	18	.400	7
West Division				
San Diego	21	9	.700	–
Los Angeles	16	14	.533	5
San Francisco	16	15	.516	5½
Colorado	14	17	.452	7½
Arizona	8	23	.258	13½

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	20	6	.769	–
Boston	20	9	.690	1½
Baltimore	16	14	.533	6
Tampa Bay	12	17	.414	9½
Toronto	12	18	.400	10
Central Division				
Cleveland	17	12	.586	–
Chicago	12	17	.414	5
Kansas City	12	18	.400	5½
Minnesota	12	18	.400	5½
Detroit	7	20	.259	9
West Division				
Texas	19	10	.655	–
Anaheim	17	13	.567	2½
Oakland	14	16	.467	5½
Seattle	14	16	.467	5½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cincinnati 200 000 002—4 7 2
Montreal 000 001 000—1 4 0
Winchester, Sullivan (7), Shaw (9) and Fordyce; Moore, Bennett (3), M.Maddux (7), Telford (9) and M.Hubbard, Widger (9). W—Winchester, 1-0. L—Moore, 1-4. Sv—Shaw (10). HRs—Cincinnati, B.Boone (5), Edu.Perez (2).

Colorado 041 310 101—11 14 0
Philadelphia 000 100 010—2 6 1
Thomson, DeJean (3), Dipoto (9) and Manwaring; Stephenson, Whiteside (4), Winston (7), Gomes (9) and Parent. W—Thomson, 2-2. L—Stephenson, 0-2. HRs—Colorado, Burks (10), Castilla (14).

Los Angeles 100 000 010—2 5 2
Atlanta 001 000 03x—4 8 0
Nomo, Guthrie (8), Brusko (8) and Piazza; Millwood, Lightenberg (9) and J.Lopez. W—Millwood, 4-1. L—Guthrie, 1-1. Sv—Lightenberg (2). HRs—Los Angeles, Zeile (4); Atlanta, Lockhart (4).

San Francisco 013 040 000—8 12 0
Florida 000 000 000—0 4 0
Estes and Mayne; Larkin, Barnics (6), Ojeda (6), Pall (9) and C.Johnson. W—Estes, 2-4. L—Larkin, 1-2. HRs—San Francisco, Mueller (3), Bonds (7), Kent (3).

San Diego 134 410 000—13 18 1
Milwaukee 000 230 000—5 14 0
Hitchcock and C.Hernandez; Mercedes, A.Reyes (4), B.Myers (6), D.Jones (8), Bochtler (9) and Matheny, Hughes (6). W—Hitchcock, 1-0. L—Mercedes, 2-2. HRs—San Diego, G.Vaughn (7). Milwaukee, Matheny (3).

Arizona 000 001 010 02—4 9 0
New York 000 000 101 00—2 7 1
(11 innings)
Suppan, Sodowsky (7), F.Rodriguez (9), Olson (10) and Stinnett; A.Leiter, McMichael (7), Cook (7), Rojas (8), Hudek (8), Bohanon (9) and Spehr. W—Olson, 1-1. L—Bohanon, 0-1.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Chicago 100 002 120—6 9 0
Anaheim 200 200 001—5 11 1
Navarro, T.Castillo (7), Foulke (8), Karchner (9) and O'Brien; Kreuter (8); Watson, DeLucia (7), James (8), Hasegawa (9) and Walbeck. W—T.Castillo, 1-1. L—DeLucia, 1-1. Sv—Karchner (4). HRs—Chicago, M.Ordonez (5). Anaheim, Walbeck (2).

Toronto 001 010 110—4 8 0
Oakland 201 102 00x—7 12 1
Hentgen, Carpenter (4), Sinclair (7) and Kl.Brown; Rogers, Fetters (8), Groom (8), Taylor (8) and Hinch. W—Rogers, 5-1. L—Hentgen, 3-3. HRs—Toronto, Sprague (4), T.Fernandez (1).

Oilers beat Avalanche to clinch series



Edmonton goalkeeper Curtis Joseph blocks a shot on goal during first period action. (Reuters)

DENVER (AP) — Curtis Joseph recorded his second straight shutout and Bill Guerin scored his sixth goal of the playoffs, helping the Edmonton Oilers clinch their first-round series with a 4-0 upset of the Colorado Avalanche on Monday night.

The Oilers, becoming only the 14th team in NHL history to rally from a 3-1 deficit and win a best-of-7 series, will meet Dallas in the Western Conference semifinals.

Edmonton also rebounded from a 3-1 deficit in the first round against Winnipeg in 1990, going on to win its fifth Stanley Cup.

With his third consecutive standout game in goal, Joseph extended his shutout streak to 163 minutes, 40 seconds since allowing a breakaway goal to Stephane Yelle late in the first period of Game 5. He had 31 saves.

Colorado's Patrick Roy, who failed in his third straight try for an NHL-record 100th playoff victory, had 13 saves.

Although they were outshot 31-17, the Oilers capitalized on their scoring opportunities while limiting the chances of Colorado stars Peter Forsberg and Joe Sakic, both of whom went scoreless for the third straight game.

Edmonton took a 2-0 lead in the first period despite being outshot 12-5 and having to kill off nearly eight penalty minutes.

The Oilers went ahead on defenseman Janne Niinimaa's goal at 4:22 of the first period. Just as Colorado's Keith Jones was leaving the penalty box at the end of a roughing penalty, Tony Hrkac passed across the crease to Niinimaa, whose shot from the left circle sailed over Roy's right shoulder.

It was the fifth goal of the series by an Edmonton defenseman; Colorado's defensemen had none.

Late in the period, Guerin made it 2-0. Doug Weight passed from the right side to a breaking Guerin at mid-ice. Guerin steadied the bouncing puck and his shot from the slot slipped between Roy's legs at 19:22.

The Avalanche, who failed to score on four power-play opportunities to extend their scoreless streak to their last 17 power plays, were booed by the home-town crowd as they left the ice at the end of the period.

Midway through the second period, Todd Marchant made it 3-0.

After a turnover by Colorado's Sandis Ozolinsh, Kelly Buchberger passed to Marchant just left of the crease. It was Edmonton's third goal in just 10 shots.

Joseph made a sprawling save moments later to rob Rene Corbet. Joseph was upended by a teammate while trying to clear the puck. He scrambled back to the goal but overskated it, then dived back and got a stick on Corbet's shot.

Corbet, expected to be sidelined four to six weeks after having surgery on a broken left thumb suffered in the series opener, played just 12 days after the injury.

Mats Lindgren scored early in the third period on a breakaway, punching in his own rebound at 1:45.

NHL PLAYOFF GLANCE
First round (Best-of-7)
Monday
Edmonton 4, Colorado 0
Edmonton wins series 4-3
Second round
(Best-of-7)
Tomorrow
Ottawa at Washington
Edmonton at Dallas

Edmonton	2	1	1—4
Colorado	0	0	0—0

First Period—1, Edmonton, Niinimaa 1 (Hrkac, McKammond), 4:22. 2, Edmonton, Guerin 6 (Weight, McKammond), 19:22. Second Period—3, Edmonton, Marchant 1 (Buchberger, Lindgren), 8:54. Penalties—Miller, Col (interference), 3:22; Forsberg, Col (cross-checking), 14:00. Third Period—4, Edmonton, Lindgren 1 (Buchberger), 1:45. Shots on goal—Edmonton, 5-8-4—17. Colorado 12-7-12—31. Power-play Opportunities—Edmonton 0 of 6; Colorado 0 of 5. Goalies—Edmonton, Joseph 4-3 (31 shots-31 saves). Colorado, Roy 3-4 (17-13). A—16,061.

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING — DeBell, Houston, .412; Weiss, Atlanta, .398; Bichette, Colorado, .387; Gwynn, San Diego, .376; Allensworth, Pittsburgh, .365; RLankford, St. Louis, .359; ChJones, Atlanta, .355; Taubensee, Cincinnati, .355.

RUNS — ChJones, Atlanta, 30; Biggio, Houston, 30; DeBell, Houston, 29; Castilla, Colorado, 26; Floyd, Florida, 25; Bichette, Colorado, 25; Clayton, St. Louis, 24; LWalker, Colorado, 24; Galarraga, Atlanta, 24.

RBI — McGwire, St. Louis, 38; Castilla, Colorado, 37; ChJones, Atlanta, 31; Alou, Houston, 28; Burks, Colorado, 28; Piazza, Los Angeles, 27; DeBell, Houston, 27.

HOME RUNS — Castilla, Colorado, 14; McGwire, St. Louis, 12; ChJones, Atlanta, 10; Burks, Colorado, 10; Galarraga, Atlanta, 10; Floyd, Florida, 9; Burnitz, Milwaukee, 8; JLopez, Atlanta, 8; Piazza, Los Angeles, 8; HRodriguez, Chicago, 8.

STOLEN BASES — Biggio, Houston, 14; EcYoung, Los Angeles, 12; Stynes, Cincinnati, 10; Womack, Pittsburgh, 9; Clayton, St. Louis, 9; QVeras, San Diego, 8; DeShields, St. Louis, 8.

PITCHING (4 Decisions) — Hampton, Houston, 5-0, 1.000, 2.84; Karl, Milwaukee, 4-0, 1.000, 3.22; Millwood, Atlanta, 4-1, .800, 3.41; Tomko, Cincinnati, 4-1, .800, 2.64; Lima, Houston, 4-1, .800, 2.61; Tapani, Chicago, 4-1, .800, 4.40; Glavine, Atlanta, 4-1, .800, 2.13.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BATTING — IRodriguez, Texas, .453; HMorris, Kansas City, .405; Thome, Cleveland, .375; MVaughn, Boston, .361; TMartinez, New York, .361; GHill, Seattle, .360; TGoodwin, Texas, .359.

RUNS — ARodriguez, Seattle, 26; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 25; McLemore, Texas, 25; Grieve, Oakland, 24; Jeter, New York, 24; FThomas, Chicago, 24; BWilliams, New York, 23; IRodriguez, Texas, 23.

RBI — JuGonzalez, Texas, 36; TMartinez, New York, 33; Justice, Cleveland, 31; JKing, Kansas City, 29; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 29; Palmer, Kansas City, 27; MVaughn, Boston, 24; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 24; McGriff, Tampa Bay, 24.

HOME RUNS — Griffey Jr, Seattle, 12; ARodriguez, Seattle, 10; MVaughn, Boston, 9; Palmer, Kansas City, 9; Stevens, Texas, 8; JKing, Kansas City, 8; Canseco, Toronto, 8.

STOLEN BASES — TGoodwin, Texas, 14; BLHunter, Detroit, 11; Lofton, Cleveland, 11; Jeter, New York, 9; Durham, Chicago, 9; Erstad, Anaheim, 8; Henderson, Oakland, 8.

PITCHING (4 Decisions) — Helling, Texas, 6-0, 1.000, 2.93; CFinley, Anaheim, 4-0, 1.000, 1.79; Saberhagen, Boston, 4-0, 1.000, 2.77; Sele, Texas, 5-1, .833, 2.72; KHill, Anaheim, 5-1, .833, 2.50; Rogers, Oakland, 5-1, .833, 3.17; Key, Baltimore, 4-1, .800, 2.95.

Erlich to face Ran in Eisenberg tourney

By ORI LEWIS

An unprecedented six Israeli players have reached the second round of the $50,000 Eisenberg Jerusalem Open tennis tournament following the completion of the first round yesterday.

As well as the six, Romania's Gabriel Trifu ousted the tournament's top seed, Peter Tramacchi of Australia, No. 128 in the ATP rankings 6-3, 7-5. The results following yesterday's matches played in sweltering temperatures, leave Israel's Eyal Erlich, the No. 3 seed as the highest-ranked player in the draw at 177.

Erlich yesterday needed three tough sets to overcome Canada's Bobby Kokavec 6-7(2), 6-4, 6-4. His next opponent will be fellow-Davis Cup teammate Eyal Ran, who had too much experience for the young Jerusalem player, Andy Ram, a qualifier. Ran won 6-3, 6-2.

In other matches, Vladimir Voltchkov of Belarus beat Israel's Noam Behr 6-4, 6-4 and No. 4 seed Todd Larkham of Australia overcame Rogier Wassen of the Netherlands 6-4, 7-5.

In the battle of the two wild cards and doubles partners, Harel Levy got past Amir Hadad 6-3, 6-4.

Other results: Andrei Stollarov (Russia) beat Andersen Jan Frode (Norway) 6-3, 6-1; Olivier Mutis (France) beat No. 6 seed Motomura Goichi (Japan) 5-7, 7-6(5), 6-4, and Markus Hantschk (Germany) beat Vadim Kutsenko (Uzbekistan) 6-2, 4-6, 7-6(5). Today's play begins at 13:00 with the round of last-16 matches.

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Arthur Post leads the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in a concert devoted to the music and songs of Yoni Rechter, who will premiere as soloist in his own new concertino for piano and orchestra. Tonight (8:30) at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv.

The premiere performance of the newly inaugurated Shesh Besh Ensemble, which aims to combine classical Western music, classical Eastern music and folk music, takes place at the Tel Aviv Museum tonight (10). Ensemble members are flutist Yossi Arnheim, percussionist Chen Zimbalista, oud player Yair Dellal and bass player Amir Masarik.

Guitarist Reuben Seroussi plays a recital with flutists Marcello Ehrlich and percussionist Karen Phenpimon performing a varied repertoire ranging from Villa Lobos to Piazzolla. Tonight (9) at the Confederation House in Jerusalem.

Doron Solomon leads his Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra in Mendelssohn's first symphony, Prokofiev's overture on Jewish Themes and Britten's serenade for tenor horn and strings with tenor Edward Rendal and horn player Alon Reuben as soloists. Tonight in Nahariya, Sunday in Dorot, May 12 in Ein Hahoresh and May 16 in Tel Aviv's Zavta. All concerts at 8:30 p.m. except Tel Aviv at 11:11 a.m.

Some 30 Israeli singers will compete in the first Vera Rozsa-Nordell lieder competition which opens today and continues until May 14 in Jerusalem. The first round takes place today and tomorrow at the Jerusalem Music Center from 11 a.m. daily.



American pianist Eric Reed plays at Jerusalem's Tower of David Museum.

JAZZ

HELEN KAYE

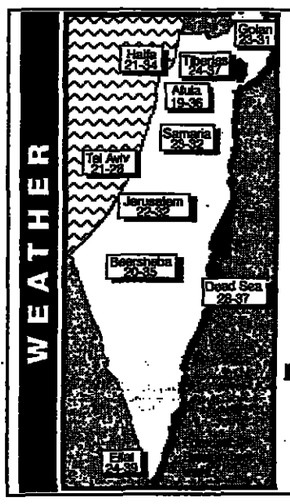
In a salute to the famed Village Vanguard, the Eric Reed Trio will put its own particular spin on jazz standards. Pianist Reed, who has played here before, has developed his own particular blend of swing, gospel and punk to create a distinctive sound. With him are Carl Allen on drums and Richie Goods on bass. Series musical director Walter Blanding guests on saxophone. Tonight at Jerusalem's Tower of David Museum at 8:30 p.m. Tomorrow at 9, and Friday at 9:30 p.m. at the Tel Aviv Museum.

OPERETTA

HELEN KAYE

The Viennese Operetta Theater continues with excerpts from everybody's favorite operettas such as *The Gypsy Baron*, *Die Fledermaus*, *The Merry Widow*, *The Blue Danube*, complete with stars, a ballet and an orchestra conducted by Thomas Gabor. Tonight at Theater North in Kiryat Haim at 8:30 p.m.

WEATHER



AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW C	LOW F	HIGH C	HIGH F	
Amsterdam	04	39	13	55	p/cloudy
Beijing	15	59	20	68	cloudy
Berlin	08	46	15	59	cloudy
Boston	11	52	12	54	rain
Buenos Aires	18	64	24	75	clear
Cairo	24	75	41	106	p/cloudy
Chicago	11	52	22	72	p/cloudy
Copenhagen	04	39	10	50	cloudy
Frankfurt	02	36	13	55	cloudy
Geneva	07	45	17	63	p/cloudy
Helsinki	06	43	17	63	sun
Hong Kong	25	77	28	82	clear
Joburg	09	48	25	77	clear
Lisbon	11	52	22	72	clear
London	10	50	15	59	cloudy
Los Angeles	15	59	20	68	rain
Madrid	08	46	19	66	p/cloudy
Montreal	16	61	21	70	cloudy
Moscow	09	48	19	66	cloudy
New York	12	54	17	63	sun
Nice	18	61	19	66	cloudy
Paris	06	43	17	63	cloudy
Prague	06	43	12	54	cloudy
Rio de Janeiro	20	68	24	75	cloudy
Rome	08	46	17	63	cloudy
San Francisco	14	57	20	68	rain
Stockholm	04	39	08	46	cloudy
Sydney	15	59	17	63	rain
Tokyo	12	54	21	70	cloudy
Toronto	12	54	17	63	cloudy
Vienna	10	50	15	59	p/cloudy
Warsaw	05	41	12	54	rain
Washington	15	59	22	72	p/cloudy
Zurich	04	39	14	57	cloudy

WINNING CARDS
in yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily chance drawing
A J A 7
9 K 7 A

WINNING NUMBERS
in yesterday's weekly Lotto drawing
2 20 24 19
31 36 42

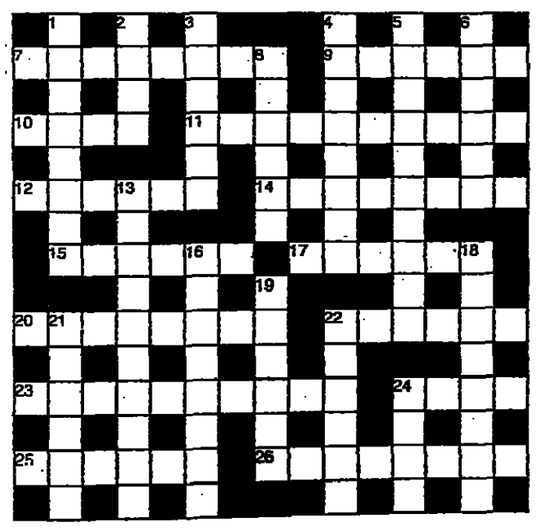
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

7 Consequence of second Shaw play presented (8)
9 Time to retire for leaderless leader-writer (6)
10 Port—a place of safety (4)
11 Means to secure some artist's work (7,3)
12 Showing nous in coming agreement (6)
14 Barter, being out of ready money (8)
15 Offensive rows within the Church (6)
17 Shrewd man offering home to simple soldiers (6)
20 Breed of pigs for country folk? (8)
22 Scares off a display of affection (6)
23 4 wants help with tax (6-4)
24 Unable to speak in a wheedling way (4)
25 Meal prepared by one-time coppers inside (6)
26 Just a hymn or a full service? (8)

DOWN

1 New variety of corn—said to be bitter (8)
2 Related in painstaking fashion (4)
3 A quarter pull up and park (6)
4 23 has come with dire problem (8)
5 Person telephoning to accept post as compere (10)
6 Take care of valuable china for the future (6)
8 Doctor the woman imbibing drink (6)
13 Cope with direction and angle (10)
16 Regulation colours (8)
18 Ringing to storm about Oriental issue (8)
19 About fifty scoffed but set forth (6)
21 Girl with a liver disorder (6)
22 Hands over the Spanish embroidery (6)
24 A club, that's the firm's aspiration! (4)



SOLUTIONS

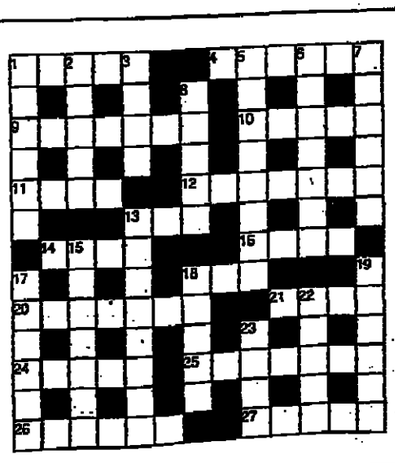


Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Roughen, 5 Ready, 8 Decor, 9 Appease, 10 Eternal, 11 Owned, 12 Mantle, 14 Second, 17 Satan, 19 Attract, 22 Curtail, 23 Agile, 24 Ledge, 25 Talents.

DOWN: 1 Ridge, 2 Unclean, 3 Heron, 4 Nearly, 5 Reprove, 6 Again, 7 Yielded, 12 Musical, 13 Lineage, 15 Ovation, 18 Ballet, 18 Tired, 20 Trail, 21 Tress.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Reaction to throat infection (5)
4 Temporary difficulty (6)
9 Arbitrate (7)
10 Unadorned (5)
11 Land measure (4)
12 Gratify (7)
13 Can (3)
14 Facts given (4)
16 Snuggery (4)
18 Appropriate (3)
20 Made law (7)
21 Tumble (4)
24 Aquatic bird (5)
25 Harvesting (7)
26 Tension (6)
27 Resided (5)

DOWN

1 Fight (6)
2 Beneath (5)
3 Cure (4)
5 Insolent (8)
6 White burgundy (7)
7 Think about (6)
8 Inaugurate (5)
13 Undiplomatic (8)
15 Non-professional (7)
17 Rules (6)
18 Idolise (5)
19 Get down (6)
22 Identical (5)
23 Difficult (4)

TV

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

■ EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Oriental Studies
8:30 Famil Album
9:00 Science
9:25 English
9:40 Mathematics
9:55 Geography
10:00 Programs for the very young
11:00 Science
11:40 Environmental Studies
12:00 Scientific Literature
12:30 Music
13:00 Art
13:30 Animation

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Elie and Lily and Zap 1
15:35 X Men
16:00 Bylder Grove
16:30 Boy Meets World
16:59 New Evening
17:34 Cultura
18:15 News in English
ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Where Are We Going?
19:00 News
HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 News
19:31 Local Hits – Live
19:53 Filmed in the Street
20:00 News
20:45 Conference Call
21:25 Sport – preview of the UEFA Cup Final
21:45 Soccer – UEFA Cup Final
23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

■ CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Shelf
6:00 Rupert Bear
6:30 Choco with Tel-Ad
6:43 Coffee with Tel-Ad
9:00 The Third Time
9:55 Thirty Something – Arizona
10:55 Home of the Brave – new CBS series: Part 1
11:40 Empty Nest
12:05 Brotherly Love
12:30 Amazing Stories
13:00 My Secret Identity
13:30 Junior News
14:00 Home and Away
14:30 Tick Tack
15:00 Meeting Point
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 Five with Raffi Reshef
17:30 Sport TV
18:00 Everybody Loves Raymond
18:30 Before All
20:00 News
20:30 Ramat Aviv Gimmel
21:15 Hartzufim
21:45 Gov Night
22:50 The X Files
23:45 Homicide
00:00 News
00:05 Homicide - cont.
00:45 M*A*S*H
1:10 One of the highlights of last year's Classic at the Red Sea performed by the Kirov Orchestra and Opera House

■ JORDAN TV (31) (unconfirmed)

17:00 Holy Koran
17:10 Mr. Bogus
17:30 Conan the Adventurer
18:00 Oshoa
19:00 The End
19:30 Neighbors
20:00 Le Journal
20:15 French Show
20:30 News Headlines
20:35 Police Academy
21:00 Hollywood Remembers
22:00 Local Magazine
22:10 Kung Fu
23:00 News in English
23:30 Miniseries
01:00 Country Music
01:30 Local Current Affairs

■ MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27)

15:00 TV Shop
15:30 Body Electric
16:00 Basic Training
16:30 The 700 Club
17:00 Larry King
18:00 Gerbert
18:23 Creation Station
18:45 Mort & Phil
19:10 Jack Hanna
19:35 Wait Till You Have Kids
20:00 Showbiz
20:30 World News Tonight (Arabic)
21:00 Stockard Channing
21:25 Newhart
21:50 Movie: The Ditch Digger's Daughter
23:30 Movie Magic
00:00 The 700 Club
00:30 CNN News

CABLE

■ ITV 3 (33)

16:00 Animation
16:45 Amores
17:30 From Day To Day
18:00 Wiseman of the Generations
19:00 Arabic News
19:30 Telekassel
20:00 News
20:45 Scent of Mint – with Shlomi Shabbat
22:15 Royal Canadian Air Farce
22:45 Zizi au Zenith – a spectacular performance by legendary French dancer Zizi Jeanmaire at Paris's Zenith club
23:45 Entertainment Now

■ ETV 2 (23)

15:30 A Matter of Time – To Remember
16:00 Mathematics for Adults
16:30 Graduation Trip to the Negev
17:00 Bobby
17:30 Dear Brother
18:00 Pique-Nique
18:30 Cooking with Capriel
19:00 Oriental Studies
19:30 Vis-a-Vis
20:00 New Evening
20:30 Tastes
21:00 The New 20th Century
22:00 Business Communications
22:15 Family Ties
23:00 Upstairs Downstairs

■ CHANNEL 3

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines (rpt)
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas (rpt)
8:00 Celeste
9:00 One Life to Live
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives (rpt)
11:15 Dulce Ana (rpt)
12:00 Love Boat
12:45 Hart to Hart
13:30 The John Larroquette Show
14:00 Bewitched
14:25 I Dream of Jeannie
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 Judge Judy
16:00 Dulce Ana
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas
18:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Beverly Hills 90210 (rpt)
20:25 Melrose Place
21:10 Profiler
22:00 Yair Lapid Live at 10
22:30 Seinfeld (rpt)
23:00 Ricki Lake (rpt)
23:45 Law and Order
00:30 Babylon 5
1:20 Love Boat

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 For the Love of Aaron (1994) – a divorced and mentally unstable writer will not face up to her situation until an anxiety attack forces her to admit she needs help.
13:05 Break of Hearts (1935) – With Katharine Hepburn, Charles Boyer and John Beal
14:35 Seeing Stars
14:55 Final Heist (1992) – an art thief's daughter is kidnapped
16:25 Seeing Stars: Miss Hawaiian Tropic
17:25 Abduction of Innocence (1996) – a rich girl is kidnapped and released after ransom is paid. When she helps find the kidnappers, they claim she was part of the plot
19:00 Only Today (Hebrew, 1976) – Ze'ev Revah's directing debut. Comedy about the efforts of Mahane Yehuda market vendors to capture rich married women. With Sefi Rivlin, Efrat Lavie, Jacques Cohen and Ilan Dar
20:35 Taking Liberty (1994) – a late 18th-century Boston Brahmin's daughter leaves her home and joins a group fighting for American independence. With Sophie Ward and David Warner
22:05 Rage (1995) – a Mafia guinea pig who is injected with drugs which cause murderous outbursts escapes in search of the antidote. With Jerry Daniels
23:35 Criminal Intent (1996) – thriller. With Alexandra Powers
1:05 Rift (1994) – With William Sage

■ CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons
9:00 Oscar and Friends
9:10 Celestine
9:15 Surprise Garden
9:40 Oliver Twist
10:05 The Smurfs
10:30 The Flying Classroom
10:40 Peter Pan
11:00 The Flying Classroom
11:15 Wyrd Sisters
11:40 The Flying Classroom
12:00 Different World
12:25 The Flying Classroom
12:45 Animaniacs
13:00 The Flying Classroom
13:30 Theo
13:40 Arthur
14:05 Care Bears Family
14:30 The Smurfs
15:00 The Flying Classroom
15:10 Peter Pan
15:30 The Flying Classroom
15:45 Space Goofs
16:05 The Flying Classroom
16:30 Family Matters
16:50 The Flying Classroom
17:10 Animaniacs
17:30 The Flying Classroom
17:45 Sliders
18:30 The Secret World of Alex
19:00 Nick Freno
19:30 Family Matters
19:50 Married with Children
20:15 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
20:40 Full House
21:05 Sweet Valley High
21:30 Beverly Hills 90210

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:15 Forbidden Games (French, 1952) – With Brigitte Fossey
23:40 Sur La Terre Comme au Ciel (French, 1993)

■ CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University
8:05 A Healthy Body
8:40 Eyes on the World: A Gypsy Emperor Heads East
9:10 Ultrascience: Sex Appeal (rpt)
9:40 Wild Horizons: Heaven on Earth (rpt)
10:10 From the House of the Dead
11:45 Silent Feminists – all about the first women film makers in Hollywood
12:30 Great Strides, part 8 (rpt)
13:05 Savage Skies, part 4 (rpt)
14:00 World's Apart, part 4: The Man Who Wasn't Darwin (rpt)
14:30 Lives on Fire
15:20 Nomads: Inner Mongolia (rpt)
16:15 Human Nature
17:00 Open University: Integrated Marketing
17:30 Open University: Perspective, AIDS
18:00 Open University: The Mechanical Universe
18:30 Open University: Nutrition Pathways
19:05 Endangered Species
19:40 Wildlife Adventures, part 1: Africa Untottled – new series with celebrities introducing exotic places and making a plea for wildlife conservation
20:30 World Apart, part 5
21:00 Body and Soul, part 5
21:30 Visionaries, part 1 – series on small people who work towards solving real problems
22:25 Human Nature
23:10 Open University: Hidden World
00:15 Open University: Conversations with Gorbachev
00:45 Open University: J'Accuse Mozart

NBC EUROPE (19/10)

6:00 The News
7:00 Europe Today
10:00 European Money Wheel
13:00 Internight (rpt)
14:00 Time and Again (rpt)
15:00 Flavors of France (rpt)
15:30 VIP (rpt)
16:00 The Today Show
17:00 Art and Practice of Gardening
17:30 Awesome Interiors
18:00 Time and Again
19:00 Travel Xpress
19:30 VIP
20:00 Europe Tonight
20:30 The Ticket: Barcelona Week
21:00 Dateline
22:00 European Tour Golf: Conte Italian Open
23:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno
00:00 Late Night with Conan O'Brien
1:00 The Ticket (rpt)
1:30 NBC Nightly News
2:00 Tonight Show

■ STAR PLUS (18/15)

6:00 Hindi programs
8:00 Oprah Winfrey
9:00 Mind Your Language
9:30 Heartbeat
10:30 Santa Barbara
11:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
12:00 Hindi film
14:00 The Wonder Years
14:30 Small Wonder
15:00 Hindi programs
18:30 Star News
19:00 'Allo 'Allo
19:30 The X-Files
20:30 Hindi programs
21:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:30 Star News (rpt)
22:00 Newhart
22:30 L.A. Law
23:30 Due South
00:30 Charlie's Angels
1:30 Santa Barbara
2:30 Oprah Winfrey

■ CNN INTERNATIONAL (12)

News throughout the day
6:05 American Edition
6:30 World Report
7:00 CNN This Morning
7:30 Insight
8:00 CNN This Morning
8:30 Moneyline (rpt)
9:00 CNN This Morning
9:30 World Sports
10:30 Showbiz Today
11:00 Larry King (rpt)
12:30 World Sport
13:30 American Edition
13:45 World Report: As They See It
14:30 Your Health
15:15 News and Business Asia
16:30 CNN Newsroom
17:30 World Sport
18:30 Your Health
19:00 Larry King Live
20:45 American Edition
21:30 World Business Today
22:30 Q&A with Riz Khan
23:00 News Europe
23:30 Insight
00:00 World Business Today
00:30 World Sport
1:00 World View
2:30 Moneyline

■ CHANNEL 5 (05)

6:30 Bodies in Motion
16:00 Bodies in Motion
16:30 Tel Aviv Beach Volleyball
17:30 MLS soccer action
19:00 Enchanted Voyage
19:50 Motorsports
20:20 Five in the Air
22:15 TBA
23:00 Enchanted Voyage

■ EUROSPORT (15/16)

9:30 Eurogoals
11:00 Motorcycling
12:30 Rally
13:00 Trial
14:30 Motocross
15:00 Tennis – ATP Tour
15:30 Sailing
16:00 Rally
16:30 Cycling Live – from Switzerland
18:00 Tennis – from Hamburg
21:00 Xtrem Sports
21:30 Bowling – from Mannheim
22:30 Darts
23:30 Rally
00:00 Boxing
1:00 Touring Car
2:00 Rally

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC

6:05 Strauss (father): Waltzes and Polka; Josef Strauss: Polkas; Strauss (son): Waltz and Overture (Vienna PO)
7:07 Chabrier: Joyeuse Marche and Espana; Dukas: The Sorcerer's Apprentice; Satie: Gymnopedie; Saint-Saens: Bacchanale from Samson et Dalila; Bizet: Jeux d'Enfants; Tourna: Overture to Raymonde (Montreal SO / Dutoit)
8:05 Tchaikovsky: The Seasons (Kubelik)
9:05 Debussy: Prelude a L'apres midi d'un Faune (Cleveland SO / Berglund); Mozart: Symphony no 29 (Concertgebouw Orch / Kripps); Messiaen: Quatuor pour la Fin du Temps; Brahms: Piano Concerto no 1 (Gilels / Berlin PO / Jochum); Elgar: Enigma Variations (Berlin PO / Levine)
12:00 Light Classical - works by Lalo and Massenet
13:00 Artist of the Week - Fabio Biondi, violin. Concerti Grossi by Corelli, Fiorillo, Geminiani and Handel (with Europa Galanta)
14:06 Keys
16:00 Saint-Saens: Sonata no 1 for Violin and Piano (Heifetz / Smith); Lachner: Woodwind Quintet no 2 (Vienna-Berlin Ens); Bartolc Quintet for Piano and Strings (Deroole / Chilingirian); Brahms: Waltzes on Love Songs op 52 (Mathis / Fassbaender / Schreier / Fischer-Dieskau / Engel / Sawallisch)
18:00 Danny Boy (Galway, flute); Grainger: Sussex Mummer's Carol for Viola and Piano (Colty / Howard); Quilter: Fuchsia Tree for Piano (Yan); Saint-Saens/Godovsky: The Swan (Yan); Schumann: 2 Songs (Bar / Parsons); Schumann: Papillons (Perahia); Francic Sonata for Cello and Piano in A major (Maisky / Argerich); Glinka: Trio in D minor "Pathetique" (Borodin); Schubert: String Quartet no 14 "Death and the Maiden" (Juilliard)
20:05 Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra conducted by Gia Low - Mozart: Overture to The Marriage of Figaro; Respighi: Rossinians; operatic arias by Rossini and Mozart (Haakan Hagegard); Mozart: Symphony no 31 "Paris"
23:00 Golden Generation - Alexander Brailowsky, piano. Works by Wagner, Chopin and Schumann

PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	6	8
19:30	News Local Hits Filmed on the Street News		Beverly Hills 90210		Family Matters Married with Children The Fresh Prince of Bel Air Full House	Wildlife Adventures
20:00		News				
20:30			Melrose Place			World Apart
21:00	Conference Call	Ramat Aviv Gimmel		Taking Liverty	Sweet Valley High	Body and Soul
21:30	Sport	Hartzufim	Profiler			
22:00	Soccer	Gov Night			Beverly Hills 90210	Visionaires
22:30			Yair Lapid Live at 10	Rage	Forbidden Games	Human Nature
23:00		The X Files	Seinfeld Ricki Lake			

MOVIES

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE Wag the Dog 5 • Live Flesh ∞Jerusalem • The Battle of the Harel Brigade 7 • Devil's Advocate 9 • 80 Huszar 9:30 **G.G. GIL** Jerusalem Mall (Malha) ☎ 6788448 The Man In The Iron Mask∞Sphere∞U.S. Marshals 4:30, 7:15, 10 • L.A. Confidential 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Spiceworld 4:45 • Hard Rain ∞The Myth of Fingerprints 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Boxer 4:45, 7:15, 10 **JERUSALEM THEATER** Decon- structing Harry 9:30 RAV CHEN 1-7 ☎ 6792799 Credit Card Reservations ☎ 6784477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot As Good As It Gets 7:15, 9:45 • Scream 2 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Titanic 5, 8:45, 9:15 • Jackie Brown 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Good Will Hunting 7:15, 9:45 • Flubber 5, 7:15 • Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* ∞Mr. Magoo 5
MEVASSERET ZION G.G. GIL ☎ 5700868 The Full Monty∞U.S. Marshals 4:45, 7:15, 10 SMADAR ☎ 5818168 The End of Violence 10 • Sweet Hereafter 4, 8 • The Thief 6
TEL AVIV
CINEMATHEQUE The Magic Flute 7 • Avanti Popolo 10 GAT ☎6967888 Titanic 1:30, 5:15, 9 **G.G. HOD** 1-4 ☎ 5226226 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. L.A. Confidential 4:45, 7:15, 10; • Live Flesh ∞Heavy Rains 5, 7:30, 10; • Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10 LEV ☎5288288 Good Will Hunting 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:15, 7, 10; • Sweet Hereafter 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 5, 7:30, 10 • The Pillow Book 12 noon, 2:15, 5, 7:45, 10 • The End of Violence 11:30 a.m., 2, 7:30, 10 • Microcosmos 5 LEV AVIV Credit Card Reservations ☎6416841 Sweet Hereafter 11 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10; • The Thief 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45; • Wings of Desire 11:15 a.m., 5, 10; • Ice Storm 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 5, 7:20, 9:45 • Ulee's Gold 2:30, 7:20 • Brassed Off 11 a.m., 2:45, 5, 7:30, 10 **G.G. PE'ER** ☎5442141 The Myth of Fingerprints ∞The Boxer 5, 7:30, 10 • The Man In The Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil 4:30, 7:15, 10 ∞U.S. Marshals 4:45, 7:15, 10 RAV-CHEN ☎ 5282288 Dizengoff Circle Screen 2 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45; • In and Out 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Jackie Brown 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Flubber 2:30, 5 • Mr. Magoo 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • As Good As It Gets 7, 9:45 • Lady and the Tramp *(Hebrew dialogue)* 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 RAV-OR ☎ 5102674 The Full Monty ∞Shooting Fish 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Jackie Brown 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Seven Years in Tibet 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Titanic 5:45, 9:30 **TEL AVIV MUSEUM** Gadjo Dilo 5,8,10
HAIFA
CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎ 8325755 Live Flesh∞The Thief 7:15, 9:15 **CINEMATHEQUE** Such a Gang 4:30 • Yeshayahou Leibovitz - Nul n'est Prophete en son Pays 7 • Carne Tremula 9:30 **MORIAH** Sweet Hereafter 7:30, 9:30 **ORI** ☎8500056 The Boxer ∞L.A. Confidential ∞U.S. Marshals ∞Sphere ∞The Man In The Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Spiceworld 4:45 • Live Flesh 4:45, 7:15, 10 **PANORAMA** U.S. Marshals 4:30 • Deconstructing Harry 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Sphere 7, 9:30 • Spiceworld 4:30 **RAV CHEN** As Good As It Gets 4:15, 7, 9:30 • Scream 2 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Full Monty 5, 7:15, 9:30 Flubber 5, 7:15 • Mr. Magoo 5, 7:15, 9:30 **RAV-GAT** 1-2 ☎ 8674311 Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • The Full Monty 5, 7:15, 9:30 **RAV-MOR** 1-7 ☎ 8416898 Jackie Brown 6:45, 9:30 • As Good As It Gets 4, 6:45, 9:30 • Mr. Magoo 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Scream 2 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Titanic 11 a.m., 4:45, 8:30 • Flubber 4:45, • Good Will Hunting 4:30, 7, 9:30 **RAV-OR** 1-3 In and Out 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Good Will Hunting 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Jackie Brown 6:45, 9:30 • Flubber 4:45
ARULA
RAV CHEN U.S. Marshals 7, 9:45 • Titanic 8:45 • Scream 2 7, 9:30 • • Flubber 6:45
ARAD
STAR ☎9950904 Scream 2∞The Man In The Iron Mask 7:15, 9:45 • Sphere 7:15, 9:45
ASHDOD
G.G. GIL ☎ 8647202 Sphere ∞L.A. Confidential 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Full Monty∞Hard Rain∞The Boxer 5, 7:30, 10 **ORI** ☎8568073 U.S. Marshals∞The Man In The Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎8661120 Scream 2 7:15, 9:45• In and Out 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Jackie Brown 7, 9:45 Flubber 5 • Good Will Hunting 7:15, 9:45 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • As Good As It Gets 7:15, 9:45 • Mr. Magoo ∞Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5
ASHKELON
G.G. GIL ☎ 8729977 Sphere ∞The Man In The Iron Mask ∞U.S. Marshals 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Full Monty∞The Boxer 5, 7:30, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎8711221 Jackie Brown 7, 9:45 • In and Out 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Scream 2 5, 7:15, 9:45 • As Good As It Gets 9:45 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • Mr. Magoo 5, 7:30
BAT YAM
RAV CHEN ☎5531077 As Good As It Gets 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • U.S. Marshals 4, 7, 9:45 • In and Out 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Scream 2 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Good Will Hunting • 7:15, 9:45 • Titanic 9:45 • Mr. Magoo 5, 7:30 • Flubber 5
BEERSHEBA
G.G. GIL ☎8440771 Sphere ∞L.A. Confidential 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Hard Rain 5, 7:30, 10 ∞Attorney Trap 4:30, 7:15, 10 **G.G. ORI** ☎8103111 U.S. Marshals ∞The Man In The Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Full Monty∞The Boxer 5, 7:30, 10 **RAV-NEGEV** 1-4 ☎6235278 Scream 2 7:15, 9:45 • As Good As It Gets • Good Will Hunting 7:15, 9:45 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • Mr. Magoo ∞ Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* ∞ Flubber 5
EILAT
EILAT CINEMA U.S. Marshals 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Man In the Iron Mask 4:45 • Jackie Brown 4:30, 7:15, 10 **GIL** ☎6340182 U.S. Marshals 4:45, 7:15, 10 • L.A. Confidential 10 • The Man In The Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15 • Titanic 5, 8:45 • The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 10
HADERA
LEV ☎6343555 Scream 2 7:30, 10 • As Good As It Gets∞U.S. Marshals 7:15, 10 • Titanic 8:30
HERZLIYA
COLONY ☎6902666 As Good As It Gets∞Deconstructing Harry 5, 7:30, 10 **DANIEL** ☎ 9544044 In and Out 7:30,10 **STAR** ☎ 9589068 Scream 2 7:30, 10 5:15 • Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5:15 • U.S. Marshals 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Titanic 5:15, 9
HOD HASHARON GIL ☎ 7408591 U.S. Marshals 4:45, 7:15, 10 • In and Out 5, 7:30, 10 • The Boxer ∞As Good as It Gets • Scream 2 5, 7:30 • 10 • Titanic 5
KARMIEL
CINEMA ☎9882521 In and Out ∞ Scream 2 7, 9:30 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30
KFAR SAVA
In and Out 5, 7:30, 10 • The Man in the Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15, • Titanic 7:15, 10 • Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5
KIRYAT BIALIK
G.G. GIL U.S. Marshals∞As Good As it Gets∞The Man In The Iron Mask Sphere∞The Full Monty 7, 9:30 • 7, 9:30 • The Boxer 9:15, 11:45 • Titanic 5:30, 9:15 • Spiceworld 7
KIRYAT SHMONA
G.G. GIL U.S. Marshals 4:30, 7, 9:30 • In and Out ∞ Scream 2 7, 9:30 • Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* ∞ Flubber 4:305
UPPER NAZARETH
G.G. GIL ☎6561332 In and Out ∞ Scream 2 7, 9:30 • The Man In The Iron Mask 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Sphere 9:45 • Titanic 5, 8:45 • As Good As It Gets 7, 9:45 • U.S. Marshals 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Jackie Brown 7, 9:45 ∞ Mr. Magoo ∞ Spiceworld ∞Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* ∞ Flubber 4:30
NESS ZIONA
G.G. GIL 1-4 ☎ 9404729 Sphere ∞The Man In The Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 10 • Event Horizon 7:30, 10 • Spiceworld 5
NETANYA
G.G. GIL 1-5 ☎ 8628452 L.A. Confidential ∞ U.S. Marshals ∞ The Man In The Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15, 10 • • Spiceworld 5 • The Boxer 7:15, 10 • Live Flesh 5, 7:30, 10 RAV CHEN ☎ 8618570 Scream 2 7:30, 9:45 • In and Out 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • As Good As It Gets 4:30, 7, 9:45 • Flubber 5 •
PETAH TIKVA
G.G. HEICHAL ☎ 9317374 U.S. Marshals ∞ Good Will Hunting 7:15, 10 • Jackie Brown 4:30, 7:15, 10 **SIRKIN** ☎ 9087989 In and Out ∞ Scream 2 ∞ Monty 7:30, 10 • The Man In The Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15 • As Good As It Gets 7:15, 10 • Titanic 5, 8:45 • The Boxer 10 • Spiceworld ∞ Flubber ∞ Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* ∞Mr. Magoo 5
RA'ANANA
CINEMOFET ☎ 7482915 The Thief 8:30 **PARK** ☎ 7711321 As Good As It Gets ∞Good Will Hunting 4:45, 7:30, 10:15 • Scream 2 5 • Titanic 5, 9 • Shooting Fish 7:30, 10:15
RAMAT GAN
RAV-GAN 1-4 ☎ 6197121 Jackie Brown 7, 9:45 • As Good As It Gets ∞ Good Will Hunting 7:15, 9:45 • Titanic 5:15, 9 • Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* ∞ Flubber ∞ Mr. Magoo 5
RAV-OASIS 1-3 ☎ 6730687 Scream 2 5, 7:30, 9:45 • In and Out 7, 9:30, 9:45 • U.S. Marshals 4, 7, 9:45
RAMAT HASHARON
KOKHAV ☎ 5491979 The Full Monty 8, 10 • Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5:30
REHOVOT
CHEN ☎ 9362864 L.A. Confidential ∞ U.S. Marshals 7, 9:45 • Sweet Hereafter 7:15, 9:45 • Gadjo Dilo 7:30, 9:45 **RAV MOR** ☎ 9493595 As Good As It Gets 4:15, 7 • In and Out 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Jackie Brown 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Scream 2 ∞ Good Will Hunting 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30
RISHON LEZION
GIL 1-3 ☎ 9500785 The Man in the Iron Mask ∞ U.S. Marshals 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Spiceworld 5 • The Boxer 7:30, 10 **HAZAHAV** ☎ 9514968 Good Will Hunting 7:15, 10 • In and Out 7:30, 10 • The Man in the Iron Mask 4:45, 5, 7:15 • U.S. Marshals 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Scream 2 7:30, 10 • Flubber ∞Spiceworld ∞Mr. Magoo 5 **RAV CHEN** ☎ 9670504 Scream 2 ∞ As Good As It Gets 7:15, 9:45

Rockies rout Phillies
Page 22

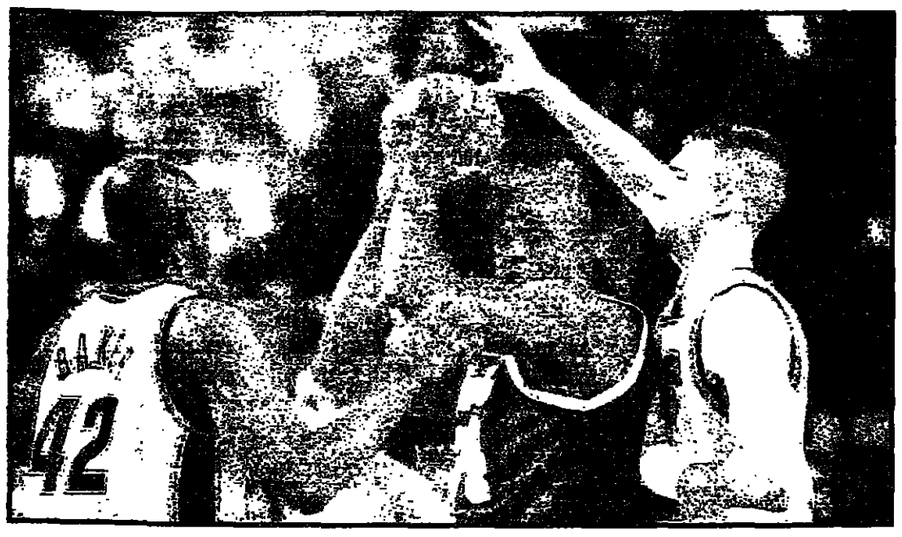
Higgins new snooker champ
Page 21

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

SCOREBOARD

PREMIER LEAGUE – Last night: Crystal Palace 3, West Ham United 3

Payton leads Sonics past Lakers, 106-92



IN A JAM – LA's Shaquille O'Neal gets caught between Seattle's Vin Baker and Jim McIvaine. (AP)

SEATTLE (AP) — Gary Payton and the Seattle SuperSonics had something left for the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Sonics, after surviving the scare of their lives in the first round of the playoffs against Minnesota, won the opener of the Western Conference semifinals Monday night, a 106-92 victory over the Lakers.

Payton, who played all 48 minutes in Game 5 Saturday against the Timberwolves, had 25 points in 43 minutes, Hersey Hawkins added 20 and reserve forward Jerome Kersey had 12 to lead Seattle to its fourth win in five games against the Lakers this season.

The Pacific Division champions, the No. 2 seed in the West behind Utah, can take a 2-0 lead over the Lakers on Wednesday night before the series moves to Los Angeles for Games 3 and 4.

Shaquille O'Neal led the Lakers with 27 points, but was 5-for-12 from the free throw line.

Los Angeles, which ended its four-game, opening-round series against Portland Thursday night, wilted in the final quarter, shooting 5-of-16 from the field as the Sonics outscored them 28-13.

The Lakers went ahead 82-80 on a dunk by Nick Van Exel and a free throw by Kobe Bryant in the first 2:54 of the fourth quarter.

The more experienced Sonics then went to work.

Payton scored a layup on a baseline drive, Vin Baker converted an offensive rebound and Kersey hit a wide-open 15-footer.

That put Seattle up 86-82 with 6:37 left.

After O'Neal hit a 10-foot hook shot over Baker, Payton hit a 3-pointer and Kersey made two free throws for a 93-86 lead with 4:37 left.

Rick Fox of the Lakers responded with a fastbreak layup to cut Seattle's lead to five before Detlef Schrempf made two free throws. Payton hit a fallaway 15-footer (4.57-meter shot) and Hawkins made two free throws to put the Sonics ahead 99-88 with 1:09 left.

The Sonics went 15-for-16 from the free throw line in the fourth quarter.

The Sonics, the NBA's top 3-point shooting team during the regular season, were 11-for-21 from behind the arc. Hawkins, Payton and Sam Perkins each made three 3-pointers.

In the third quarter, the Lakers went on an 18-3 run to turn a 70-59 deficit with 7:24 to go into a 77-73 lead with 1:49 left. Fox keyed the run with three field goals, one a 3-pointer.

Seattle had to settle for a 14-footer by Jim McIlvaine and a free throw by Baker during the run.

Seattle led by 14 points for the third time in the game when Baker made a layup to open the third quarter.

Perkins connected on a 3-pointer with 50 seconds left in the third quarter to cut the Lakers' lead to 79-78 going into the final period.

Seattle opened the second quarter with a 15-0 run over the first 3:22 as Payton made two 3-pointers and Perkins hit one to go in front 44-32.

The Lakers, who shot 67 percent in the opening period, were 2-for-11 over the first 6:59 before Van Exel connected on a 3-pointer.

Seattle led 62-50 at halftime after twice leading by 14.

NBA PLAYOFF GLANCE
Conference semifinals
(Best-of-7)
Monday
Seattle 106, Los Angeles 92
Seattle leads series 1-0
Last night
New York at Indiana
San Antonio at Utah
Today
Charlotte at Chicago
Los Angeles at Seattle
Tomorrow
New York at Indiana
San Antonio at Utah

L.A. Lakers	32	18	29	13—92
Seattle	29	33	16	28—106

LA. LAKERS (92) Fox 6-13 0-0 14, Horry 3-5 1-1 7, O'Neal 11-20 5-12 27, Fisher 3-4 0-0 8, Jones 3-10 2-2 9, Van Exel 5-15 0-0 14, Bryant 1-5 2-4 4, Blount 0-1 0-0 0, Campbell 5-5 1-1 11. Totals 38-76 11-20 92.

SEATTLE (106) Baker 5-12 1-2 11, Schrempf 6-12 6-6 19, McIvaine 2-6 0-0 4, Hawkins 5-7 7-7 20, Payton 8-19 6-6 25, Perkins 3-4 0-0 9, Ellis 2-6 0-0 5, Kersey 5-7 2-2 12, Anthony 0-4 0-2 0, Wingate 0-0 1-2 1, Williams 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 38-77 23-27 106.

Fouled out—Fox. Rebounds—Los Angeles 42 (O'Neal 11), Seattle 52 (Baker, Hawkins 8). Assists—Los Angeles 28 (Fox 10), Seattle 21 (Payton 6). Total fouls—Los Angeles 26, Seattle 22. A—17,072.

Stewart named England Test captain

LONDON (AP) — Alec Stewart was named yesterday as England's cricket Test captain, beating out Nasser Hussain for one of the most high-pressured jobs in British sport.

Stewart, 35, will captain the side for this summer's five-Test series against South Africa and the single Test against Sri Lanka in August.

Adam Hollioake, Stewart's team captain at Surrey, retained the leadership of England's one-day team for this month's series against the South Africans.

Stewart succeeds Mike Atherton, who resigned last month after 4 1/2 years as captain.

"It came down a decision between two — Alec and Nasser," chairman of selectors David Graveney said. "The deciding factor is Alec's experience and respect within team."

"Alec's experience coupled with the respect in which he is held by the players convinced us that he is the man to lead the Test side."

England has not beaten a major Test nation in a full series in more than 11 years.

"Obviously I cannot wave a magic wand and everything will be all right but we will be competitive and be consistent and have a great chance of being a good side," Stewart said.

Graveney said Hussain, who was Atherton's vice captain for the past 18 months, would "still play a key part in the onfield decision-making process."

"Nasser remains an absolute pivotal part of the side," he said. "Our decision on the captaincy was a very close run thing."

Graveney said Stewart would continue to bat in the top order, while admitting that he is likely to resume wicketkeeping duties, too.

Stewart's appointment does not necessarily mean he will give up the wicketkeeping role altogether.

"I'll be three or four if I do keep wicket," he said. "I've always said that if it's in the best interests of the team, then I'll do it."

Graveney also confirmed that Stewart, unlike Atherton last year, will serve on the Test selection panel.

Stewart, who has made 5,153 runs from 75 Tests at an average of 41, made his Surrey debut in 1981 and his England debut in 1990.

Stewart is the son of former England manager Micky Stewart.

Alec followed in his father's footsteps by captaining Surrey from 1992 to 1996.

The facts on Stewart

Born: April 8, 1963 in Merton, England. Son of former England opener and Surrey captain Micky.
Debut for Surrey 1981, capped 1985.
Tests: 75 (debut 1989-90). **Runs:** 5,153 **Average:** 41.22.
Highest score: 190 versus Pakistan, Birmingham 1992.
One-day internationals: 99. **Runs:** 2,812 **Average:** 32.32.
Captained England twice on 1992-93 tour of India and Sri Lanka.
Only England player to score a century in each innings against West Indies with two hundreds in Barbados four years ago.

DADASH

Continued from Page 1

Dadash spares no sympathy for the media either: "A gang of journalists, all known to be partial toward Hapoel Tel Aviv, transgressed all boundaries [of integrity] in describing events at the match. For example, one of the writers said 'The scene in Haifa a few minutes before 8 p.m. looked like the Yom Kippur [War] of Israeli soccer.' While another quotes a Knesset member as saying that players 'sold their souls [for the result].'"

Dadash mentions the demonstration by Hapoel Tel Aviv supporters outside Israel Football Association headquarters at the National Stadium at Ramat Gan and concludes by saying: "Until today, even in the most trying of times for the club, I did not fear for implicit death threats against me.

"I now feel that I can no longer bear the responsibility of managing the club."

Channel 1's Mabat last night played a voice-altered recording by a Beit She'an player in which he alleges to Kol Bo, the Haifa local weekly newspaper, that a member of the club's management said to the players in the dressing room at half time: "Let's calm things down so that we can get out of here alive."

When pressed by the newspaper's reporter, the player said: "Not to try hard meant to lose the game..."

Modi'in Ezrahi, the private investigations firm which is probing the matter on behalf of the Israel Football Association, asked Kol Bo to identify the player, but the paper has refused. Mabat said the player is a "well-known" team member.

Four of Beit She'an's players – Shimon Danan, Eitan Tayeb, Almog Hazan and Jamil Hadr – underwent five hours of questioning by Modi'in Ezrahi yesterday.

Apart from Danan and Hazan, the others, and team manager Avi Levy, underwent a lie-detector test. After their questioning, the Beit She'an players said the truth would soon come to light and that Hapoel Tel Aviv would be the team to suffer.

Danan told reporters: "We answered all the questions. It is disgraceful that I had to give evidence here. Those who smeared Hapoel Beit She'an will be the ones who will have to apologize. We will all be found innocent and Hapoel Tel Aviv will flounder."

The demonstration outside the National Stadium by some 200 Hapoel Tel Aviv supporters turned violent and Israel's national team doctor, Mark Rosnowsky, who happened to be in the vicinity, was hit by a soft drink can and taken to Ichilov Hospital to get stitches for a cut above his left eye.

The protesters also threw a smoke grenade and set alight garbage lying around outside the stadium.

THE ISRAEL CANCER ASSOCIATION

That beauty spot should be checked!

During Skin Cancer Early Detection and Awareness Week

in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Dermatology Association, the Association of Plastic Surgeons, and the Health Funds

Free examinations will be given throughout the country, on the following dates:
Thursday, May 7, 3 - 6 p.m.
Friday, May 8, 9 a.m. - 12 noon
(unless otherwise noted below)

REHABILITATION EARLY DETECTION TREATMENT PREVENTION GUIDANCE PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION RESEARCH

ACRE
K.H. Leumit, 24 Weizmann (Thursday 3:30-6 p.m., Friday):
K.H. Clalit, Professional Clinic, 35 David Noy (Thursday 4-6, Friday)
K.H. Maccabi, 41 Derech Ha'arba (Friday)
AFULA
K.H. Clalit, Omer Clinic, 5 Sheinbaum (Friday)
Ha'emek Hospital, Dermatology Clinic (Thursday)
ARAD
K.H. Maccabi, 13 Shimon (Thursday 6-7:30 p.m.)
ASHDOD
K.H. Meuhedet, 24 Reh. Kibbutz Galuyot (Thursday)
K.H. Leumit, Ad Halom Branch, 3 Reh. Ad Halom (Thursday)
K.H. Leumit, Ahad Ha'am Rassco Branch, 22 Reh. Ahad Ha'am (Thursday)
K.H. Clalit, Medical Center, Hakirya, The City Square, 1 Reh. Habanim (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Maccabi, 12 Reh. Hashayatim, Rova Dalet (Thursday 3:30-6:30 pm.; Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)
ASHKELON
K.H. Maccabi, 3 Reh. Hagevura (Thursday 6-8 p.m.)
K.H. Meuhedet, 5 Kibbutz Galuyot (Friday)
Barzilai Medical Center (Thursday)
K.H. Leumit, Migdal Branch, Reh. Szold (Thursday)
K.H. Clalit, Hutzot Clinic, Canion Hutzot (Thursday 8 a.m.- 12 noon)
BAT YAM
K.H. Clalit, Melech Noy Clinic, 20 Kedoshai Kahir (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 45 Yerushalayim (Friday 8 a.m.-12 noon)
K.H. Leumit, 3 Mochrei Hasigariot (Friday 10:30-11:30 a.m.)
K.H. Maccabi, 37 Katznelson (Thursday 4-5 p.m.; Friday 8-11:30 a.m.)
BEERSHEBA
K.H. Leumit, Canion Hanegev branch, Eli Cohen Junction (Thursday)
K.H. Maccabi, 11 Yitzhak Rager (Friday 11a.m.-1p.m.)
K.H. Clalit, Regional Clinic, Henrietta Szold, (Thursday, 8 a.m.-12 noon; 5-7:30 p.m.)
Beit Zarzir K.H. Meuhedet, Gamis Zarzir (Friday 10:30 a.m.-12 noon)
BEIT SHEMESH
K.H. Clalit, Beit Shemesh Municipal Clinic, Reh. Hamishlat (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 17 Rehov Harakefet (Thursday, Friday)
BNEI BRAK
K.H. Maccabi, 34 Rehov Rabbi Akiva (Thursday 4-7 p.m.)
K.H. Clalit, Blumenthal Clinic, 13 Rehov Eli Cohen (Friday)
DIMONA
K.H. Clalit, Dalet Clinic, Reh. Yetziat Europa (Thursday 8 a.m.-12 noon)
EILAT
K.H. Clalit, District Clinic, Beit Kollier (Thursday 5:30-8:30 p.m., Friday 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.)
GIVATAYIM
K.H. Maccabi, Michlala Leminhal High School, 2 Simtat Zvia (Friday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)
K.H. Clalit, Hameorer Clinic, 24 Hameorer (Thursday 4-7 p.m.)
HADERA
K.H. Meuhedet, 21 Rehov Herzl, 3rd fl. (Thursday 4 pm. - 6 p.m., Friday 8 a.m.-12 noon)
K.H. Leumit, 66 Rothschild (Thursday 4-6 pm.)
Hillel Yaffe Hospital (Thursday 3:30-6:30 p.m.)
HAIFA
Bnei Zion Medical Center (Thursday Outpatient Clinic, 3rd fl., 3-5:30 p.m.; Friday Day Hospital, 1st fl., new western wing 9-11 a.m.)
K.H. Clalit, Ibn Sina Clinic, 8 Rehov Ibn Sina (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Almogi Clinic, 36 Rehov Blumental (Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Rush Professional Clinic, 4 Rehov Elhanan, Central Carmel (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Linn Medical Center, Plastic Surgery Dept., Sd. Rothschild (Thursday)
K.H. Meuhedet, Simtat Atlit (Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 34 Sd. Abba Khoushi (Thursday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 3 Rehov Smolenskin (Friday 10 a.m. to 12 noon)
K.H. Meuhedet, 3 Shalom Aleichem, Ziv Center (Thursday 4-6)
K.H. Meuhedet, 45 Trumpeldor (Friday 8 a.m.-12 noon)
Rambam Medical Center (Friday)
K.H. Maccabi, 35 Nordau (4-7 p.m.)
HATZOR HAGLILIT
K.H. Clalit (Thursday 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Friday)
HERZLIYA
K.H. Maccabi, 7 Rehov Hasharon (Thursday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 6 Sd. Ya'acov (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Leumit, Central Herzliya Branch, 13 Herzog (Thursday 4-7)
HOD HASHARON
K.H. Meuhedet, 23 Rehov Yehoshua Ben Gamla (Friday 8 a.m.-12 noon))
HOLON
K.H. Clalit, Beit Roter Clinic, 36 Ehad Bemai (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 3 Hanotrim (Thursday 3:30 -6 p.m.)
K.H. Meuhedet, 11 Rehov Ragimowitz, Sadab Center, 2nd fl., Kiryat Ben-Gurion (Friday 12.30-2.30 p.m.)
Wolfson Hospital, Dermatology Clinic (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Leumit, 51 Sokolow (Thursday 3:30-7 p.m.)
K.H. Maccabi, Kiryat Ben-Gurion Branch, 16 Landau (Thursday 4-7 p.m., Friday 8 a.m.-12 noon)
K.H. Maccabi, 54 Eilat (Thursday 4-7 p.m., Friday 8 a.m.-12 noon)
JERUSALEM
K.H. Meuhedet, 4 Rehov Haturim (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, Hebrew University, Mt. Scopus, Students' Health Services, 10 Reznick Dorms (Thursday 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)
K.H. Meuhedet, 43 Emek Refaim (Friday).
Sha'are Tzedek Hospital (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Maccabi, 15 Rehov Agrippas (Thursday 5-7 p.m.)
K.H. Maccabi, 8 Asharni, East Jerusalem (Friday)
K.H. Leumit, Leumit Medical Center, Mesilat Yesharim (Thursday 5-7 p.m.)
K.H. Leumit, Pisgat Ze'ev, 166 Moshe Dayan (Thursday, 4-6 p.m.)
K.H. Leumit, M.T.R., 105 Derech Hevron (Friday 8-11 a.m.)
K.H. Leumit, 13 Megadim (Friday 8-10 a.m.)
K.H. Leumit, Canion Malha Medical Center (Friday 8 a.m.-12 noon)
K.H. Clalit, Mekor Baruch Clinic, 1 Rehov Eliezer Hamaccabi (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Sheikh Jarrah Clinic, Government Compound, East (Thursday)
KAFR ABU SNAN
K.H. Leumit, Abu Snan Branch (Thursday, 3:30-6 p.m., Friday)
KAFR KANA
K.H. Meuhedet, Kafr Kana Main Road (Friday 8-10 a.m.)
KARMIEL
K.H. Clalit, Professional Clinic, Canion Lev Karmiel (Thursday 8 a.m.-12 noon)
K.H. Meuhedet, Canion Lev Karmiel, 2nd fl. (Thursday 3-6 p.m.)
K.H. Maccabi, Main Branch, Canion Kikar Ha'ir (Friday 9-11 a.m.)
KFAR SAVA
Sapir Medical Center (Meir Hospital) (Thursday 3-5:30 p.m., Friday 9-11:30 a.m.)
KFAR YONA
K.H. Maccabi, 6 Sharett (Thursday 8-10 a.m.)
KIRYAT BIALIK
K.H. Clalit, Zevulun Clinic, Migdalei Hakiryon (Thursday, Friday)
KIRYAT GAT
K.H. Leumit, 39 Sd. Lachish (Friday)
K.H. Maccabi, 115 Hagefen, Canion Gat Center (Thursday 5:30-7 p.m.)
KIRYAT MALACHI
K.H. Clalit, Kiryat Malachi Bet, Habad Quarter (Thursday)
KIRYAT MOTZKIN
K.H. Maccabi, 59 Sd. Goshen (Thursday, 10 a.m.- 12 noon)
KIRYAT ONO
K.H. Maccabi, 25 Reh. Yirmiyahu (Thursday 4-7 p.m., Friday)
K.H. Leumit, 31 Reh. Walach (Thursday)
KIRYAT SHMONA
K.H. Clalit, Medical Center, Reh. Arlosoroff (Thursday 1-6 p.m.)
KOCHAV YAIR
K.H. Maccabi, Commercial Center (Wednesday, 8:30-9:30 p.m.)
LOD
K.H. Clalit, Lod Medical Center, 1 Sd. Hazionut (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Leumit, 5 Rehov Haetrog (Thursday)
K.H. Maccabi, 31 Shapira (Friday 10 a.m.-12 noon)
MEITAR
K.H. Maccabi, Commerical Center, Store 15 (Friday 8-9:30 a.m.)
MITZPE RAMON
K.H. Maccabi, 9 Nahal Grofit (Thursday 10-11 a.m.)
NAHARIYA
K.H. Meuhedet, 70 Rehov Herzl (Friday)
K.H. Leumit, 8 Yeshurun (Thursday, 3:30-6p.m., Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Specialists' Clinic "B" (Josephthal), 15 Hasharon (Thursday, Friday)
Western Galilee Hospital (Thursday)
NAZARETH ILLIT
K.H. Clalit, South Clinic, Dado Square (Friday)
K.H. Maccabi, Canion Lev Ha'ir (Thursday 10 a.m. - 12 noon)
NAZARETH
K.H. Clalit, Clinic "B" Rehov Ma'ayan Maro (Thursday)
K.H. Meuhedet, Galilee Commercial Center (Friday 8-10 a.m.)
NESS ZIONA
K.H. Maccabi, Kanyoter Towers, (Thursday 5-7 p.m., Friday 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)
NETANYA
K.H. Leumit, Daniel Medical Center, 10 Hanotea (Friday 8-11 a.m.)
K.H. Clalit, Poleg Specialists' Clinic, 10 Zalman Shazar (Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Professional Clinic, 8 Rehov Raziel (Thursday)
OMER
K.H. Maccabi, 5 Ha'agam (Friday 10 a.m.-12 noon)
OR YEHUDA
K.H. Maccabi, 1 Rehov Ofira (Thursday 4-6:30 p.m.)
PARDES HANNA
K.H. Clalit, Medical Center, 1 Hadekalim, Canionit Hakikar (Thursday)
PETAH TIKVA
K.H. Maccabi, 94 Ein Ganim (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Rothschild Clinic, 119 Rothschild (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 19 Nordau (Thursday)
K.H. Leumit, 18 Yehuda Halevi (Friday)
RA'ANANA
K.H. Clalit, Hanotrim Clinic, Reh. Hanotrim (Thursday)
K.H. Leumit, 98 Ahuza (Friday 8 a.m.-12 noon)
RAMAT GAN
K.H. Maccabi, 8 Krinitzi (Friday)
K.H. Maccabi, 17 Arlosoroff (Thursday 4-7 p.m.)
K.H. Maccabi, 104 Rehov Jabotinsky, Ramat Marpe (Friday 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)
K.H. Maccabi, 7 Rehov Abba Hillel, Beit Silver (Thursday 4-7 p.m.)
K.H. Meuhedet, 6a Natan (Thursday, Friday)
Sheba Medical Center (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Clalit, 8 Reh. Haro'eh (Friday)
RAMAT HASHARON
K.H. Maccabi, 5 Ussishkin (Friday 9-10:30 a.m.)
RAMLE
K.H. Clalit, Ramle-Ben-Gurion Clinic, 13 A.S. Levi (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Maccabi, 11 Sd. Weizmann (Friday)
REHOVOT
K.H. Clalit, Remez Medical Center, 8 Remez (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 4 Reh. Binyamin (Thursday 9 a.m.-12 noon, Friday)
RISHON LEZION
K.H. Meuhedet, 72 Rehov Rothschild (Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Pinsker Clinic, 31 Rehov Pinsker (Thursday, Friday)
ROSH HA'AYIN
K.H. Maccabi, 17 Sd. Hatziyonut (Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Mitzpe Afek, 96 Sd. Shilo (Thursday, Friday)
SAFED
K.H. Clalit, Central Clinic, 45 Reh. Hanassi (Thursday)
SDEROT
K.H. Clalit, Sderot Clinic, Rehov Havered (Thursday 5-7:30 p.m.)
TEL AVIV
K.H. Leumit, 4 Haftman (Thursday 3:30-6:30 p.m., Friday 8 a.m.-12 noon)
Soraski Medical Center (Ichilov Hospital) (Thursday, Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Ramat Aviv Alef Clinic, 19 Brodetzki (Thursday)
K.H. Clalit, Tel Nordau Clinic, 1 Dov Hoz (Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Lamed Clinic, 27 Rehov Burla (Friday)
K.H. Clalit, Kiryat Shalom, 39 Rehov Yisrael Guri (Friday)
K.H. Meuhedet, 15 Rehov Sprinzak (Thursday 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
TIBERIAS
K.H. Clalit, Rekati Clinic, 3 Reh. Hahashmonaim (Thursday 3-7 p.m.)
TIRAT HACARMEL
K.H. Maccabi, 62 Rehov Jabotinsky (Wednesday 5.30 - 6.30 p.m.)
YAVNE
K.H. Clalit, Hadekel Clinic, 6 Reh. Hadekel (Thursday 12:30-4:30 p.m.)
K.H. Maccabi, 1 Giborei Hahayil (Thursday 2-4 p.m.)
YERUHAM
K.H. Maccabi, 199 Reh. Bornstein, Magen David Adom Bldg. (Thursday 1-2 p.m.)

ISRAEL CANCER ASSOCIATION - "TELEMEDIA" 03-571-7888, 03-572-1616

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